FBIS DAILY REPORT

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REPORT ON BEAGLE CHANNEL AGREEMENT UNCONFIRMED

Source Slates 23 Jan Signing

PY092126 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2055 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 9 Jan (NA) -- The agreement reached between Argentina and Chile over the Beagle issue within the framework of the papal mediation will be signed on Monday, 23 January, in Vatican City. According to reliable sources, the advance announcement will be made on Thursday, 12 January, and the foreign ministers of the two countries, Dante Caputo and Jaime del Valle, will leave for Rome to sign the agreement which ends 5 years of intense negotiations.

A few minutes before the announcement on the date of the agreement was made by a reliable source in this capital, a high-ranking Vatican source confirmed to NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS that an important announcement on the Beagle issue would be made "within the next few days," and that "the people will be able to assess the importance of this announcement."

Deputy Denies Agreement Imminent

PY092244 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 2215 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Text] Buenos Aires, 9 Jan (DYN) -- Deputy Federico Storani, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Chamber of Deputies, today flatly denied the possibility of an "imminent agreement" on the Beagle issue with the Republic of Chile. Storani, who tomorrow will meet with Foreign Minister Dante Caputo to consider the "latest news" about the progress of the talks on the southern conflict, told DYN that "the only statement that could be made now is that the stumbling blocks to the negotiations have been removed." Storani made it clear that if the current pace of negotiations is maintained "it is reasonable to expect a basic agreement to be reached soon, but this in no way means that an agreement is imminent."

Foreign Ministry Declines Comment

PY100002 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2302 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 9 Jan (TELAM) -- Tonight an authorized spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Relations had no comment on a report of an imminent Vatican announcement on the Beagle mediation. TELAM asked the Foreign Ministry General Press Office about a LATIN-REUTER report that the Vatican is reportedly going to announce this week that concrete progress has been made in the mediation between Chile and Argentina over the southern border conflict. LATIN-REUTER added that the announcement expected for this week will reportedly give guidelines for a wide understanding which may serve as a basis for new conversations.

The Foreign Ministry did not want to give an opinion on the international press agency report. The authorized spokesman, after saying that he had no comment, indicated that the Holy See will release a report as it has always done since the beginning of the mediation. This morning the Foreign Ministry adopted the same attitude regarding the declarations made by Chilean Foreign Minister Jaime del Valle, who said in Santiago that the solution of the conflict is imminent.

Caputo Issues Communique

PY100115 Buenos Aires Argentina Televisora Color in Spanish 0000 GMT 10 Jan 84

[Announcer-read report on communique regarding the Beagle question released by Foreign Minister Dante Caputo on 9 January in Buenos Aires]

[Text] Foreign Minister Dante Caputo has just released a communique regarding the Beagle question:

Up until tonight I have not received any official information from our mission in Rome regarding the Beagle question. Nevetheless, I want to point out that I expect to receive information shortly, following the progress which has been made and to which I referred on previous occasions.

If the negotiations on the Beagle question develop as expected, I will make another statement this week. At that time, let no one doubt it, the information will be complete, truthful, and reliable, in order to dispel the conjectural and fragmentary reports which have been made public.

We should have some information on the state of the negotiations very soon. As soon as we have any, I will make it known.

CHIEF OF STAFF'S TITLE CHANGED IN REORGANIZATION

PY091452 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 8 Jan 84 p 9

[Text] (NA) -- The Joint Chief of Staff will in future be known as the Armed Forces Chief of Staff and its present head, Brigadier General Julio Fernandez Torres, is to be promoted to Lieutenant-General, military sources said.

The same sources said military concerns involved in the production of war materiel are to remain under the control of the Defence Ministry. One aim of the new chief of staff will reportedly be to move the main high commands from large cities. The transfer of military enterprises to the Defence Ministry and the possible sale of some to private enterprise is to be discussed tomorrow.

INTERIOR MINISTRY DENIES OFFICERS ABLE TO LEAVE

PY091203 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1917 GMT 7 Jan 84

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 7 Jan (DYN) -- The Interior Ministry has not authorized any immigration office to allow the departure from the country of Generals Guillermo Suarez Mason and Santiago Riveros and Colonel Alberto Minicucci, who are involved in the disappearance of INTI [National Institute of Industrial Technology] technician Alfredo Giorgi.

The investigation of Giorgi's disappearance is being conducted by San Martin Federal Judge Luis Cordoba, who has prohibited the travel of several high-ranking military officers, including former President Reynaldo Bignone. However, Andres Marutian, a lawyer who is defending the three officers, told journalists last Wednesday that Judge Cordoba had authorized their departure.

OFFICERS SUMMONED TO COURT IN KIDNAPPING CASE

Camps, Suarez Mason Questioned

PY091841 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Text] Federal Judge Luis Cordoba questioned Generals Ramon Camps and Guillermo Suarez Mason this morning in connection with the investigation into the disappearance of Alfredo Giorgi.

Bignone Fails To Appear

PY092352 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 2000 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Excerpts] Former President Reynaldo Bignone has not appeared before San Martin Federal Judge Luis Angel Cordoba. Bignone was summoned to appear in connection with the case involving Generals Camps, and Suarez Mason, and Colonels (Rualdes) and Rossi.

In view of General Bignone's unjustified absence, the plaintiff for the disappearance of Alfredo Georgi submitted a request asking for Bignone's arrest. In answer to a question, Judge Cordoba said that he had to think the next step now that Bignone has failed for the second time in a row to appear at the San Martin Court.

National Deputy Augusto Conte said that a warrant for Bignone's arrest is inevitable. He added that the judge will make a decision tonight or tomorrow morning.

GROUP DENOUNCES STATUS OF PARAGUAYAN PRISONERS

PY091338 Paris AFP in Spanish 1348 GMT 8 Jan 84

[Text] Buenos Aires, 8 Jan (AFP) -- The Latin American Peace and Justice service, headed by 1980 Nobel Peace Prize winner Adolfo Perez Esquivel, denounced in a communique released here today the serious situation of Paraguayan political prisoners who are being tortured.

The communique adds that Catholic University students Pelusa Elizeche, Ernesto Heisecke, Cayetano Quatrocchi and Monica Perez, who began a hunger strike 54 days ago, have been interned in the National University Hospital of Asuncion by order of Judge Ramiro Ayala Matto.

The communique adds that Sargeant Escolastico Ovando, who has been at the disposal of the executive branch for 15 years and who was also fasting, has been admitted to the security hospital.

The communique recalls that Desiderio Arzamendia, Roberto Villalba and Enrique Gossen have been fasting in Tacumbu prison since 21 December.

The Peace and Justice Service concludes by reporting that since the lives of the mentioned prisoners are in danger, the organization has sent a telegram to Paraguayan Interior Minister Sabino Montanaro "making him responsible for what could occur."

COMMANDO THREATENS BRITISH ENTERPRISES

PY092355 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1938 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Text] Buenos Aires, 9 Jan (DYN) -- The self-styled "Sovereign Fatherland Commando" has announced that its next actions will be carried out "against British enterprises that are established in Argentina, particularly the Bank of London and its most important source income: the LONDONCARD credit card."

An anonymous call warned DYN about the commando's future actions. A few days ago the commando carried out an attack against the Torre de los Ingleses [The English Clock Tower] in the Retiro district, which damaged the clock.

The commando warned: "We give a week's time to those businessmen who collaborated with the enemy by accepting payments through the LONDONCARD credit card, otherwise they will be subject to reprisals for treason to the fatherland."

BRIEFS

PRESIDENTIAL ADVISER APPOINTED -- Buenos Aires, 6 Jan (TELAM) -- It was officially reported in Government House that Leonardo Enrique Dimase has been appointed presidential adviser through decree 93/84. Dimase will have the rank of secretary of state. [Text] [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2152 GMT 6 Jan 84 PY]

FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL -- Buenos Aires, 30 Dec (NA) -- Colonel Gustavo Caceres, retired, has been appointed general director of information of the Foreign Ministry. [Summary] [Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1831 GMT 30 Dec 83 PY]

DEPUTY AIR FORCE STAFF CHIEF -- Buenos Aires, 30 Dec (NA) -- General Carlos Alberto de Blasis has been installed as the Air Force deputy chief of staff. [Summary] [Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1520 GMT 30 Dec 83 PY]

YACYRETA OFFICIAL APPOINTED -- Buenos Aires, 29 Dec (TELAM) -- The government has appointed Porfirio Antonio Aquino as executive director of the Yacyreta Binational Enterprise. [Summary] [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2145 GMT 29 Dec 83 PY]

WHEAT FLOUR FOR IRAQ -- The National Grain Council has officially announced the sale of 30,000 tons of wheat flour to Iraq, worth approximately $5 million. [Summary] [Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 27 Dec 83 p 16 PY]

ALLEGED AGREEMENT WITH U.S. GOVERNMENT DENOUNCED

PY091951 Paris AFP in Spanish 1653 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Text] La Paz, 9 Jan (AFP) -- Today civic and congressional leaders of Cochabamba denounced the fact that the Bolivian and U.S. Governments have apparently agreed to organize secretly armed groups to fight drug trafficking and eradicate coca cultivation.

They said that the agreement was not published for fear of the Chapare area (Cochabamba) peasants' reaction, since they produce the largest quantity of coca leaves in the country and this crop is the basis of their economy.

They added that in view of such an agreement, which they want to see published, the United States is helping Bolivia organize an armed force equipped with airplanes, vehicles, and sophisticated equipment capable of advantageously confronting organized drug traffickers.

They said that the antidrug armed groups will be an independent force, that is, they will operate independently from the Bolivian police and armed forces.

PRESIDENT ISSUES INVITATION FOR DIALOGUE

PY091305 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1100 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Excerpt] Last weekend President Hernan Siles Zuazo addressed an invitation to all national sectors to hold a dialogue to seek a national understanding.

Noteworthy portions of the document point out that in September 1983 we deemed it necessary to find an understanding regarding the priority objectives of domestic policy in order to tackle the crisis we inherited in a more effective manner and to establish the grounds for an understanding on the continuity of the democratic process.

President Siles' document adds that the church leadership, in a gesture that did it justice, invigorated the idea with a call for understanding and dialogue. It also points out the strong belief in the value of these initiatives and has persuaded us to extend an invitation, through the Senate, to all political trends represented in that chamber so that they may take part in the realization of these priortiy objectives of national interest.

MONEY SHORTAGE HANDICAPS POLICE ACTION

PY092316 La Paz Radio Illimani Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Text] The temples, museums, and buildings where colonial or archaeological artifacts are stored will be guarded by police to prevent their theft. Surveillance will begin as soon as police are provided with the necessary resources, which are now in short supply.

On this subject, Police General Commander General Mario Teran Lavadenz said that the police cannot fulfill their mission of protecting society and public property because of economic difficulties.

He then explained that the crime rate has risen considerably and that police can take only limited action because they lack the necessary means.

Concerning the theft of jewels from the statue of the Virgin of Copacabana, he said that it was not an isolated action because last December valuable colonial paintings were also stolen from the San Pedro [name indistinct] Chapel. The paintings, damaged by the thieves, were later recovered with their frames.

Teran Lavadenz concluded by saying that in the next few days, the police will make use of a $400,000-fund obtained in connection with the seizure of several kilograms of gold. This money will be used to buy vehicles, to buy radio equipment that will be set up in border areas, and to erect modern police laboratories.

COB MINIMUM SALARY REQUEST NOT GRANTED

PY061207 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1100 GMT 6 Jan 84

[Excerpt] The minimum salary with an adjustable scale will not be implemented. Planning and Coordination Minister Roberto Jordan Pando has categorically said that the country and the national government are not in any position to grant the minimum salary with an adjustable scale because of the country's difficult economic situation. This salary demand was made by the Bolivian Labor Federation, COB. He indicated, however, that the Planning and Coordination Ministry plans to hold a joint meeting with the COB and the Finance Ministry to discuss pending matters regarding salaries.

BRIEFS

ANDEAN DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LOAN -- The Bolivian Central Bank has received $1.5 million from the Andean Development Corporation as part of the $15-million loan granted Bolivia for industrial reactivation. [Summary] [La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1100 GMT 6 Jan 84 PY]

MINING PRODUCTION FIGURES -- La Paz, 30 Dec (AFP) -- The Mining Corporation of Bolivia (COMIBOL) today reported that 1982 tin production, which totaled 15,484 metric tons, increased to 16,000 metric tons in 1983, while the silver and lead production increased from 147 metric tons [as received] and 7,233 metric tons to 7,767 metric tons, respectively, during the same period. During 1983, copper production increased from 1,295 metric tons to 1,997 metric tons; while cadmium production increased from 93 metric tons to 96 metric tons. However, the wolfram and zinc productions decreased from 1,320 metric tons to 1,263 metric tons and from 23,725 metric tons to 22,184 metric tons, respectively. COMIBOL also noted that despite the difficulties it had to confront in 1983, the comanagement with workers that was implemented this year helped to reactivate mineral production. [Summary] [Paris AFP in Spanish 1606 GMT 30 Dec 83 PY]

URANIUM, THORIUM DISCOVERED -- La Paz, 3 Jan (AFP) -- The Bolivian Geological Service GEOBOL) officially reported today in La Paz that uranium and thorium have been detected in three areas of the eastern mountain range, more specifically in the Cohuila-Illulaya Hills in La Paz, the Sapo-San Cristobal Hills in Cochabamba, and the Yarhuicoya-Chullchucani Hills in Potosi. GEOBOL added that it will grant priority to the exploitation of these minerals during 1984 and that it will need $80,000 to implement this program. [Text] [Paris AFP in Spanish 1737 GMT 3 Jan 84 PY]

PRELIMINARY AGREEMENTS WITH ARGENTINA REPORTED

PY100008 Santiago Radio Cooperativa in Spanish 1715 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Text] [In progress] reliable Foreign Ministry sources. The ambassador to the mediation held a meeting this morning with the pope's representatives to the mediation process, Monsignor (Arturo Saenz) and Monsignor (Gabriel Montalvo). During this preliminary meeting at the Vatican, the delegates will begin to draft a number of agreements that may be signed this week.

According to Chilean Foreign Ministry spokesman, these agreements may be very important. They noted that at present the delegates have sought to establish the proper conditions that will lead to the negotiation of a final agreement to end the Beagle dispute. However, they said that these agreements do not mean that the dispute has been solved, but rather that this is the beginning of the conclusive stage of the drafting of a treaty. The spokesman added that the overall treaty encompasses a peace agreement, the physical integration of the two countries, and the peaceful solution of controversies, among other issues.

In the last 3 years, Chile has awaited Argentina's acceptance of the papal proposal issued on 12 December 1980. However, if the present agreements are approved and both nations sign the overall treaty, this will imply that Argentina has tacitly accepted the papal proposal. Moreover, Argentina diplomatic spokesman in Buenos Aires have noted that an agreement is imminent. Chilean Foreign Ministry spokesman said [words indistinct] agreements must (?be signed) this week. They added that the signing of these agreements will mean that both Chile and Argentina will follow the path established by the pope on 26 April 1982. At that time, the pope urged both nations to undertake the conclusive phase of the process by establishing a specific basis for the negotiation.

JARPA DISMISSES POSSIBILITY OF POLITICAL CHANGES

PY091300 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1336 GMT 8 Jan 84

[Text] Madrid, 8 Jan (EFE) -- Interior Minister Sergio Onofre Jarpa today dismissed any possibility of political changes in General Augusto Pinochet's government. Lecturing at the "Adolfo Ibanez" business college of Valparaiso, the main Chilean port which is located 120 km from Santiago, Jarpa also announced that new economic measures will be adopted.

The interior minister and chief of General Pinochet's cabinet said that there will be no political changes and that the country's situation is "very calm." He added that "economic and administrative measures will be adopted shortly which will have very positive political effects." Judging the political attitude of the opposition, Jarpa said that "due to its political ineffectiveness, the opposition has been forced to resort to methods of the extreme left to promote strikes. However, this will be counteracted through the adoption of economic and political measures."

GROUP OF 24 TO HOLD MEETING, MAKE PROPOSAL

PY082313 Santiago Radio Cooperativa in Spanish 1715 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Excerpt] The Group of 24 will issue a proposal for a peaceful transition to democracy in a ceremony to be held on Tuesday at 1830 at the (Cariolas) Theater.

Former Legislator Patricio Aylwin will be the main speaker at this ceremony. Patricio Aylwin, a member of the Constitutional Studies Group, noted the following in this regard:

[Begin Aylwin recording] [This is an important event] because this is the first time since the Group of 24 was established almost 5 years ago that it will be allowed to make a public proposal at a public meeting. At the meeting we will explain the group's activities. This is an eminently pluralist group including all national democratic sectors that seek to achieve agreements that will lead to democracy. [end recording]

Aylwin noted that the Group of 24 is in full agreement on what kind of democracy should be implemented in the future. He added that it will explain at the meeting why it rejects the 1980 Constitution which is completely undemocratic.

[Begin Aylwin recording] We will propose an alternative to overcome the present impasse in which the government reasserts its legitimacy while the democratic opposition demands a constituent assembly and General Pinochet's resignation. At the meeting we will propose ways to overcome this impasse based on constitutional and democratic guidelines that will lead to a transitional period which in turn will lead to a great national agreement. [end recording]

DYNAMITE ATTACKS DAMAGE SUBWAY LINE, BRANCH BANK

PY091143 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0337 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Excerpts] Santiago, 8 Jan (EFE) -- About 10 meters of track No 2 of the subway were blown up at 2330. The attack at a site where the train runs at surface level occurred after the service had closed. Almost simultaneously there was another blast at the intersection of Irrazabal and Valdivia Streets. It damaged the facade of a bank branch office, but no damage estimates have been provided thus far.

Havana Notes Attacks

PA091935 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Text] Several dynamite attacks occurred early this morning in Santiago, Chile. One of the blasts destroyed 35 meters of the capital's subway. According to the preliminary reports released by police, the number of blasts that occurred at dawn today, Monday, in the Chilean capital has not yet been determined. The sources added that these dynamite attacks, (?unprecedented) in Chile in their number and coordination, affected several banks, commercial companies, and various other institutions in Santiago. Since last weekend, Augusto Pinochet's regime has adopted special security measures in La Moneda Palace as a precaution against possible attacks.

ARMED FORCES COMMANDER REJECTS TIES WITH CUBA

PA081356 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 0006 GMT 7 Jan 84

[Text] Bogota, 6 Jan (DPA) -- General Gustavo Matamoros D'Costa, commander in chief of the Colombian Armed Forces, today said that "it is morally impossible to have relations with Cuba."

Matamoros D'Costa, who was interviewed for the 1900 newscast of Colombian television's Channel Two, said that "we cannot have relations with a government headed by a communist dictator who trains people to invade our country."

The Armed Forces commander said that no member of the military forces, especially the Colombian Army, is involved "in the matter of the alleged missing persons in this country. None of us has anything to do with the missing."

In another part of the interview, Matamaros D'Costa noted that "the Colombian Armed Forces want peace, but a true peace, not a false one, because that would mark the beginning of a civil war in Colombia."

He stated that he respected the position of the National Peace Commission appointed by President Belisario Betancur, saying that "it appears to me that it is carrying out a very important task. If they secure peace, it will be very important, and we maintain the position specified by the national Constitution. We cannot change our mission, ever; we are men of principles, and principles are not negotiable with anyone."

Asked about the position of some guerrilla groups in the middle Magdalena and El Caqueta regions who have requested the withdrawal of Army troops from those regions, Matamoros D'Costa replied: "That would mean failing to fulfill the important tasks assigned to us by the national Constitution. We must be in exactly those places where public order is disrupted. We have to be in those places to fulfill our duty correctly."

Regarding the resumption of diplomatic relations with Cuba, the Armed Forces commander in chief was emphatic in stating: "I believe it is morally impossible for the time being to have relations with a dictator who has done great wrongs to Colombia and who has sponsored an invasion of our territory by foreign troops."

Charges Subversive 'Intensification'

PA091841 Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 5 Jan 84 p 3

[Text] The military forces have charged that the intensification of subversive activities in Colombia is a result of guerrillas gaining freedom thanks to the Amnesty Law promulgated by President Belisario Betancur's administration having returned to the mountains and jungles.

Military Forces Commander General Gustavo Matamoros D'Costa made this statement, stressing that in 1983 troops were ambushed 144 times by guerrillas of the FARC [Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia], the M-19 [19 April Movement], the ELN [Army of National Liberation], and the EPL [Popular Liberation Army].

Matamoros D'Costa said that the Army will continue working for peace and legally constituted democratic institutions.

"Unfortunately, many of the criminals in the country's insurgency did not accept the Amnesty Law. Others who did subsequently returned to their criminal activities, and this is naturally the reason for the growth observed in those groups opposing democracy and our institutions," Matamoros explained.

"The military forces and the National Police will continue tending the tranquillity, peace, and quiet of all Colombians. We will be active in all rural areas and cities on behalf of the good people, and of course, we must fulfill our constitutional duties, which include watching over the tranquillity and well-being of all Colombians," he added. Gen Matamoros recalled that everyone knows that the Congress of the Republic promulgated the Amnesty Law, which was later sanctioned by President Betancur as a law granting pardon and absolving all crimes committed by subversives before 20 November 1983.

Naturally, he went on, no crime committed after that date has been or can be pardoned. That would be tantamount to impunity.

"The president of the Republic has explained this to the nation, and it is only logical, for the law was for those who were engaged at the time in armed subversion against the democratic institutions."

According to the commander of the military forces, those who continued to wage a subversive struggle after the promulgation of Law 35 of 1982 are outside the law and are, therefore, subject to the jurisdictional authorities charged with guarding the national peace.

ARMY COMMANDER TERMS AMNESTY RESULTS NEGATIVE

PA070008 Bogota Emisoras CARACOL Network in Spanish 1215 GMT 6 Jan 84

[Text] Bogota -- General Oscar Botero Restrepo, commander of the Army's 5th Brigade, has said that the response from the guerrilla groups to the amnesty granted by the Colombian Government has been absolutely negative, since instead of accepting it these groups have become more belligerent.

When assuming command of the 5th Brigade, Gen Botero Restrepo said that the response to the amnesty was both unfortunate and negative. The rebels, he added, instead of accepting the amnesty have assumed an increasingly belligerent attitude, and today they even set conditions for peace. If accepted, these conditions would only facilitate their actions in rural areas and cities. This, he concluded, would be harmful to democracy and our national institutions.

ARMED FORCES SEEK ACTION AGAINST GUERRILLAS

PA090002 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 1730 GMT 8 Jan 84

[Text] The Armed Forces commanders today expressed support of the position taken by Defense Minister General Fernando Landazabal Reyes on the need to take stronger action against the threat presented by subversive organizations.

In a document delivered to President Belisario Betancur and Minister Landazabal Reyes a few hours ago, the top commanders of the Colombian Armed Forces, including six generals, expressed support for Minister Landazabal Reyes' position, indicating that the amnesty that was offered by President Betancur expired on 21 December 1983 and that the rebels' bloody actions must now be stopped, since they obviously do not want peace.

The Armed Forces' document says that incidents such as those which took place a few hours ago in Sabana Larga, Antiquia Department, in which six policemen were massacred by the guerrillas, can only be met with arms. In view of the outbreak of violence in both urban and rural areas, the military commanders have asked President Betancur to take a stronger stance.

EPL GUERRILLAS KILL POLICEMEN IN SABANA LARGA

PA081224 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 1730 GMT 7 Jan 84

[Text] Medellin -- A few hours ago a guerrilla column of 50 revolutionaries of the People's Liberation Army [EPL] staged a spectacular attack in the Sabana Larga Municipality, in which six policemen and two guerrillas were killed. The rebels, including three women, took policeman Jairo Omar Tecerna hostage. They also burned the mayor's office, held up the Agrarian Credit fund, looted stores, broke into the hospital, and released the prisoners from the jail.

Corporal Abel Penaranda Quintero, commander of the police station in Sabana Larga, was killed during the attack. The other victims were Luis Alfredo Marin Agudelo, Mario Vidal Gutierrez Cruz, Jose Ramon Lopez Marin, Alvaro Mosquera Agudelo, and Israel Rincon Jaime. The first report received by the authorities was from a wounded policeman of Sabana Larga, who escaped and arrived a few hours ago in Santa Fe de Antioquia, located 70 km from Sabana Larga. Colonel Jose Hugo Tirado Castaneda, Antioquia Department police commander, immediately ordered an investigation to try to capture the rebels, who after the attack returned to the mountains.

FARC GUERRILLAS KILL 3 PEASANTS IN BOYACA

PA091937 Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 6 Jan 84 p 1

[Text] The Communist Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) has murdered three peasants, apparently because they refused to help the organization in its illegal activities and instead gave information to the authorities. An Army spokesman has reported that some 30 guerrillas ambushed a pickup in Quince Letras, between Dos Quebradas and Puerto Pinzon in the Puerto Boyaca Municipality, Boyaca Department. The guerrillas then killed Cesar Quintana and Alberto and Tito Pinzon.

FINANCE MINISTER ON 1983, 1984 INFLATION RATES

PA070034 Bogota Emisoras CARACOL Network in Spanish 1215 GMT 6 Jan 84

[Text] Edgar Gutierrez Castro, finance and public credit minister, has reiterated his intention to keep the inflation rate below 14 percent this year and asserted that the government has the structural causes of inflation under control. Our goal of keeping inflation below 20 percent in 1983 was achieved in October; the year ended with a 16.64-percent cost-of-living increase, which means that it can drop to 14 percent this year, Finance Minister Gutierrez said. He added that if it were possible to lower inflation to 16.64 percent last year, even though minimum wages were adjusted by 25 percent, there is no reason why we should not try to keep inflation below 14 percent in 1984.

He added that the government is working on and has control of the structural causes of inflation, such as expanded money circulation, the budget deficit, and national production, which now shows clear signs of recovery and in some sectors has, in fact, recovered.

EXILED PLRA LEADER RETURNS FROM ARGENTINA

PY091411 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 8 Jan 84 p 11

[Text] "Argentina has stopped meddling in our domestic affairs. The Argentine military governments were constantly intervening in our domestic affairs by harassing exiles, torturing and kidnapping opponents who had sought refuge in Argentina, and we even know of cases of opponents who were arrested and then sent back to Paraguay," said Hermes Rafeal Saguier upon his arrival in Paraguay yesterday.

Saguier is a leader of the Authentic Radical Liberal Party [PLRA] in Buenos Aires and he returned to Paraguay with his wife and son almost 1 year after he was banished from Paraguay. Saguier was met at the airport by leaders of the PLRA and the National Accord. He was delayed for a few minutes at the airport, where he was subjected to a thorough search.

Saguier said that the direct cooperation that existed between the Paraguayan and the Argentine intelligence services has ended and that now the Paraguayan exiles residing in Argentina may freely demonstrate, hold meetings, and voice their ideas. Saguier regarded the return of the exiles as a positive step, "although some dear friends like Domingo Laino and Luis A. Resck are not allowed to return yet, but shortly we will engage in a national and international campaign so that they may return, as well as all the others."

Saguier added that the opposition has succeeded in starting a peaceful opening process and that he expects that this process will gain strength. "I have heard statements that General Alfredo Stroessner holds a majority in Paraguay and that he could win clean elections. I ask those people who are supporting Gen Stroessner that they persuade him to start a clean electoral process in order to test his popularity. I personally think that if there were a clean democratic process in Paraguay, Gen Stroessner could not be the Colorado Party candidate and, should he run, I do not believe that he would be able to obtain 5 percent of the votes," Saguier said.

Saguier made it clear that there are no secret deals between the government and the National Accord or with any other government in the world. "All steps for democratizing Paraguay are taking place publicly and the press is constantly being informed," Saguier said. Saguier said that those who believe that this process will run out of steam after the exiles return "are daydreaming, because after the exiles return there will be other steps, like lifting the state of siege, renewing the judiciary, and retiring the generals who have been on duty more than 10 years, thus allowing the reorganization of the Armed Forces, and all this should be topped by a clean election," Saquier stated.

PRISONER LIFTS HUNGER STRIKE AFTER 52 DAYS

PY061359 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 6 Jan 84 p 15

[Excerpt] Escolastico Ovando has stopped the hunger strike he has been staging for 52 days to demand his release. This information was disclosed yesterday by his wife but she did not give any details or any reasons for her husband's decision to lift the strike. According to his wife, Ovando, held in prison without trial for 6 years on orders from Presdient Alfredo Stroessner, has gradually begun to eat.

Sofia Torres said that Ovando lifted the hunger strike on Wednesday evening after 52 days without eating. Asked why her husband decided to lift the strike, his wife gave no explanations.

INTERIOR MINISTER ON SHINING PATH, SQUATTERS

PY092342 Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Text] According to statements made by Diaz Martinez, Abimael Guzman has disappeared from the Shining Path ranks, said Interior Minister Luis Percovich Roca upon his return from Arequipa, where he dedicated the first Civil Guard Regional School. Percovich made the following comments:

[Begin recording] [Percovich] Well, according to the statements made by Diaz Martinez during the investigations, Abimael Guzman has already disappeared from the ranks of the Shining Path. Diaz has also said that Mezzich is a low-ranking leader who is not playing a significant role within the Shining Path organization. We already had this information and it leads us to conclude that the top leader -- provided that these statements are true and correct -- would be Antonio Diaz Martinez, who is now under arrest.

[Question] Mr Minister, do you believe then that the Shining Path organization will not last long?

[Percovich] We do not dare to make such a statement now or in the future. What we are simply saying is that a strong effort is being made within the legal and constitutional framework, both by the police and by the Armed Forces, so that peace and tranquillity may prevail in the country as soon as possible.

[Question] Mr Minister, I would like to ask you a question. The president, after holding a meeting with the United Left (IU) congressmen, told them that if they did not (?change) their attitude, a military coup would (?ensue). What is your opinion?

[Percovich] I do not believe that the president made this sort of statement. What I really believe is that the president during a meeting must have told them about his concern that within a state of law some people seek to live outside the law and the Constitution and that this sort of attitude harms democracy. This is actually a fact, a reality, that all of us can perceive.

[Question] Will the director of the National Guard resume his post as soon as he recovers from his illness?

[Percovich] I understand that General Galaguer is recovering very well from his illness, but according to his doctors he is to rest and undergo a few tests. Depending on these tests and on his full recovery, we will see what is best for the institution. [end recording]

Percovich also recommended that the media not blow the news out of proportion, making reference to the event that took place at the Barbones Barracks, which was hit by two low-powered sticks of dynamite. Percovich made the following remarks:

[Begin recording] [Percovich] Once again I would like to recommend to the news media that they not blow the news out of proportion. What occurred at the Barbones Barracks is that two low-powered sticks of dynamite were thrown, but the media reported on this event as if it were a large-scale, all-out attack. This greatly harms the country, because the news that is disseminated abroad gives an unrealistic picture.

[Question] Mr Minister, on the invasion of properties, what will the Interior Ministry's attitude be?

[Percovich] The one we have already announced. An attitude conforming to the Constitution and the law. Eleven intrusions, or attempts, have been made, and the trespassers have been evicted. We are expecting that the judiciary will give us authorization to evict four others. Through a communique we have already informed the people that the police will abide by the Constitution and by the police statutes so that in Peru the order and the legitimacy of ownership of properties are not disrupted. [end recording]

LIMA MAYOR OFFERS TO MEDIATE SQUATTERS ISSUE

PY092204 Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Text] Lima Mayor Alfonso Barrantes Lingan has offered to act as a mediator to put an end to the invasion of private property after denying that the United Left has been instigating these actions. This offer was made after Barrantes met with President Belaunde at Government House and requested the President's approval of a loan to cover the most pressing needs of the municipality of Lima.

Barrantes Lingan assessed his meeting with Belaunde as positive and cordial, and he said that the executive branch would consider his request but he failed to mention its amount.

Talking about the methods used by the squatters, Barrantes Lingan said that they violate the ownership rights of the legitimate owners, something punishable by law. Barrantes Lingan recommended the municipal project drafted by the Real Estate Bank as a viable alternative for coping with the housing shortage.

EXPRESO REPORTS TERRORISTS ABANDONING AYACUCHO

PY062210 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1606 GMT 6 Jan 84

[Text] Lima, 6 Jan (EFE) -- According to the newspaper EXPRESO today, the Peruvian Maoist guerrilla group "Shining Path" is abandoning Ayacucho Department and moving on to Huancavelica Department because of the constant harassment to which it is being subjected.

Huancavelica Department is near Ayacucho Department and according to the newspaper the members of the guerrilla group are also moving to Pasco Department, in the center of Peru.

EXPRESO points out that the "Shining Path" has declared 17 towns of Huancavelica Province, in the department of the same name, as a "liberated zone," which has caused the departure of the authorities of this jurisdiction as well as that of part of its inhabitants.

According to EXPRESO this has been happening since before the municipal elections on 13 November 1983. Departures created an absenteeism of two thirds of those qualified to vote.

The members of the Shining Path group have also been observed in the three provinces of Pasco Department. Here the members of the group supply information to the terrorists to aid in the blowing up of key high tension pylons. During the first minutes of 1984 the terrorists dynamited a series of pylons, leaving Lima and other Peruvian cities in the dark.

ECONOMY MINISTER SAYS IMF TALKS SUCCESSFUL

PY061805 Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 6 Jan 84

[Excerpts] Economy Minister Carlos Rodriguez Pastor has announced, after returning from his visit to IMF headquarters in Washington, that Peru has secured foreign support for its economy. The successful negotiations carried out during his visit open new possibilities of obtaining the new credits that our country requires to continue the important development projects it is carrying out. Rodriguez Pastor explained that the agreement reached last December on support for the economic program of the constitutional government was ratified during his meeting with top IMF officials.

CONCERNS VOICED ON LATIN AMERICAN DEBT

PY061905 Lima Cadena Panamericana Television in Spanish 1245 GMT 6 Jan 84

[Excerpt] The Latin American foreign debt, including that of Peru, amounting to about $300 billion, cannot be paid within the time that has been negotiated or renegotiated. It is necessary to obtain a longer grace period of at least 20 years and a reduction of the interest rates. This statement was made today by Senator Manuel Ulloa on returning to Lima after holding coordination meetings in the United States, Spain, Colombia, and Venezuela for the purpose of establishing a unanimous position regarding the problem to be dealt with at the economic conference to be held in Ecuador.

[Begin Ulloa recording] I am convinced that the Latin American debt, including that of Peru, cannot be paid within the time that is being renegotiated. Everyone knows that, just as well as the fact that the renegotiations are being done as best we can. Brazil is renegotiating as best it can and Mexico is doing the same. But if we do not propose a much longer grace period, and 20 years to pay the debt, and a substantial reduction of the interest rates we are paying, we will simply not be able to pay. [end recording]

COMMUNIST PARTY LEADER SAYS BELAUNDE FEARS COUP

FL092015 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Text] Cuba's historical example and its internationalism were emphasized by Senator Jorge del Prado, secretary general of the Communist Party of Peru, in a tribute to the 25th anniversary of the Cuban revolution.

Del Prado made a broad summary of the history and successes of the Cuban revolution in a tribute paid to it by the Communist Party of Peru. He also referred to the situation in Cuba at the beginning of the century and talked about the long struggle of the Cuban people until the triumph of the revolution in 1959.

President Fernando Belaunde Terry is said to have told three opposition senators, who had been invited to a meeting at Government House, that he fears a military coup attempt, which would interrupt Peru's constitutionality. The meeting and the matters discussed were revealed to the newspapers by Jorge del Prado, secretary general of the Communist Party of Peru and of the United Left.

Del Prado said that Belaunde Terry expressed knowledge of the development of a coup d'etat, and he argued that this would mainly affect the left, because he had already established his record, which could not be affected by a coup.

COLORADO POLITICIAN INTERVIEWED AFTER RELEASE

PY100010 Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Excerpt] I will continue in the political struggle for the benefit of my country, said Colorado Party member Luis Bernardo Pozzolo a few minutes ago. He was released today at noon. Radio El Espectador interviewed him at his house. This is what he said:

[Begin Pozzolo recording] Well, I hope that the tranquillity that we have here in this conversation will be the tranquillity that prevails in the country from now on. I am going to return to my daily activities, to civic struggle with no resentment and with peace of mind to struggle for my Colorado Party and to struggle for freedom and democracy. And I am thinking of a commitment to hold elections on 25 November 1984 which will definitely liberate and democratize the country, a commitment which must be fulfilled not only by those who decided to hold elections, but also by the people. [end recording]

30 ARRESTED AT DEMONSTRATION SUPPORTING STRIKE

PY092224 Paris AFP in Spanish 1414 GMT 8 Jan 84

[Text] Montevideo, 8 Jan (AFP) -- Some 30 persons were reportedly detained while they were holding a demonstration in support of the workers of the Wool Industries of Uruguay (ILDU), one of the largest textile factories in Uruguay. The ILDU workers have occupied the factory to demand a salary increase.

The occupation of the factory, which has nearly 700 workers on its payroll, is likely to last for some time, because although the employers are willing to hold talks, they will not do so as long as the workers occupy the factory premises.

According to the workers, the occupation, which was both morally and effectively supported by all labor unions, took place 1 and 1/2 months after negotiations failed and after several 15-minute work stoppages per shift had taken place.

According to labor union reports -- the police have not issued any official communique -- while the participants of the demonstration, organized yesterday by the workers and students, were dispersing peacefully, they were intercepted by the police. Approximately 30 persons were arrested, among them two minors aged 10 and 14.

FISHERIES SECRETARY RETURNS FROM COSTA RICA

FL061722 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0225 GMT 6 Jan 84

[Excerpt] Mexico City, 5 Jan (NOTIMEX) -- Fisheries Secretary Pedro Ojeda Paullada, on his return from the Costa Rican capital, today announced that Mexico and Costa Rica would form a permanent regional agreement on tuna in the Pacific. Interviewed at the Mexico City airport, the official termed his visit to Costa Rica positive because during his brief stay, he formalized a technological and trade exchange between the two countries.

NUMBER OF GUATEMALAN REFUGEES SURPASSES 100,000

FL092342 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2255 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Text] Mexico City, 9 Jan (NOTIMEX) -- Luis Alberto Padilla, president of the Guatemalan Human Rights Commission in this country, has reported that as a consequence of permanent repression in his country, the number of Guatemalan refugees in Mexico has reached a little over 100,000.

He pointed out that the refugees are seeking protection and jobs primarily in southern Mexico, especially in the jungle regions of Chiapas, and that many of them are in camps or working in the coffee fields in the region.

He said that the number of people seeking refuge had increased because of the effects of the military regime's policy on the rural sector.

Luis Alberto Padilla said that the recent bombing of the Mexican Embassy in Guatemala was regrettable and condemnable from any standpoint.

Meanwhile, Chiapas Senator Manuel Villafuerte Mijangos spoke out in favor of creating jobs, which would solve the problem of subsistence for the refugees and at the same time contribute to regional development. Also, he indicated that Mexico was not limited to respecting human rights in theory or in international forums, but puts its humanistic vocation into practice, offering help to those who suffer the consequences of military regimes.

1984 ECONOMIC LETTER OF INTENT RELEASED

PA090308 Mexico City EL NACIONAL in Spanish 4 Jan 84 p 1

[Article by Coral Young]

[Text] The Letter of Intent for 1984 that was submitted to the IMF presents the Mexican Government's updated economic policy goals for the second year of implementation of the Immediate Program for Economic Recovery [Programa Inmediato de Reordenacion Economica -- PIRE] promoted by President Miguel de la Madrid. The document, which details 1983 achievements and the goals for 1984, was released last night by Finance Secretary Jesus Silva Herzog and Programming and Budget Secretary Carlos Salinas de Gortari.

Secretary Herzog reiterated that the progress made in the past few months was made possible by the solidarity shown by all the Mexican people. We are on the right track and Mexico has recovered its international prestige, he said. It now has the foundations for firm, sustained growth.

Planning Secretary Salinas de Gortari said that the Letter of Intent submitted to the IMF is clearly in line with the economic policy criteria proposed by President De la Madrid and approved by the Congress.

The document, which was read by Finance Under Secretary Francisco Suarez Davila, states that the 1984 program strives to continue to lower the inflation rate, to promote a gradual recovery in the economic growth rate while maintaining a favorable balance of payments, to reactivate production, and to generate employment.

It is reported that the 1984 financial plan is consistent with an economic recovery that showed an increase in the GNP of 1 percent in real terms.

The program also strives to introduce important structural changes in the economy and the society so that national income may be more equitably distributed among the population, in an effort to reduce social imbalances and to strengthen social institutions and democracy, allowing Mexico's development to take place with freedom and justice.

EDITORIAL ON 'NEW PHASE' OF SALVADORAN CONFLICT

PA081810 Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 4 Jan 84 p 11

[Editorial: "El Salvador: New Phase of the War"]

[Excerpts] War has inflexible laws: A battle won or a site occupied by one of the two sides destroy like a house of cards all the adversary's propaganda constructed of paper and words, for weeks or months. This has been the effect of the occupation of the El Paraiso Garrison and the blowing up of the Cuscatlan Bridge, the largest in Central America, with which the FMLN rebels bade farewell to the year 1983 and greeted 1984.

The occupation of the El Paraiso Garrison, headquarters of an infantry brigade and one of the country's most fortified sites, marked the beginning of a higher plane of the guerrilla war. As one of the tactical chiefs of the operation noted, the operation required the massive use of artillery. To have access to such artillery signifies the availability of substantial logistics and a very developed technical capacity in the rebel ranks. It is worth noting that it was when the Sandinists had the necessary artillery to attack the garrison's defenses that the decisive stage of the war in Nicaragua began.

Government reports indicate that the garrison's defenses were weakened because many of the troops were patrolling the province, while others were on unauthorized leaves of absence. The first would indicate the FMLN has once again forced the Army to upset the balance between troops concentrated to defend the controlled areas and troops deployed to pursue the guerrillas. The second would demonstrate that discipline has been greatly weakened among the government troops. The FMLN intelligence service detected this situation, and its guerrillas acted accordingly.

For its part, the FMLN has announced its readiness to begin negotiations. But it has demonstrated that it will not do so defeated, but from a position of solid military strength, capable of proposing and defending its own demands. All those who are justifiably concerned about peace in Central America and who want to attenuate the growing threat of foreign intervention should take note of these things in searching for paths and means to contain the spread of the war. These actions have demonstrated once more the bonfire that would spread throughout the region if intervention were to occur out of political blindness or a faulty estimation of the situation.

'THIRD FORCE' PROPOSES CANAL AREA POLICY

PA100038 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 9 Jan 84 p A-13

[Statement issued by Panamanian General Ruben Dario Paredes, retired, as an independent, and by Olimpo Saez, representing the Panamanian Popular Nationalist Party, on behalf of "the Third Force," in January 1984]

[Text] Panama's Struggle for Sovereignty and Liberty

Panama's independence and the recovery of its national sovereignty have been the work of generations that have been struggling heroically since the mid-19th century to attain the ideal of a free and sovereign fatherland. Among the strugglers were Rosa Elena Landecho, Ricardo Villamonte, and Ascanio Arosemena -- a girl, a worker, and a student -- and other martyrs who gave their lives on 9 January 1964 to demand the nullification of the 1903 Canal Treaty. They were the culmination of the historic effort of glorious generations of Panamanians who have been struggling for more than 5 centuries for sovereignty and liberty.

Our generation has a commitment to those who have shed their blood to consolidate our national independence and to all the Panamanian people -- the unknown, honorable, and brave heroes. Now that we are beginning to receive the assets and areas associated with the former U.S. canal, we cannot be weak; we must complete the work. Neither can we be opportunists, permitting only a few to benefit from what must be of benefit to all Panamanians.

400 Houses That Will Not Be Returned

Here are some specific points. On 1 October 1984, 400 houses that are currently being occupied by U.S. militarymen and employees, who have no other place to stay, will be returned to Panama. It is logical to feel that the Panamanian Government should thereafter rent them out for humanitarian reasons. Howver, the 8 million balboas per year that this rent willproduce should go to the national budget, for use in construction of low-cost housing and housing for professionals in the reverted areas. Panama's gesture -- the rental of these houses to the foreign personnel who are currently occupying them -- warrants reciprocation from the United States in the form of a long-term, low-interest loan to be used in the construction of housing that the Panamanians so urgently need, which would also generate new jobs.

400 Dismissals in the Canal

It was recently announced that the jobs of 400 Panamanian Canal employees will be eliminated for economic reasons. However, the Canal Commission has also decided to spend 4 million balboas for salary increases for the North Americans who lose their commissary privileges. These 4 million balboas should be used not to increase already-high salaries, but to keep 200 or 300 Panamanians in their jobs, thus preventing an increase in the nation's grave unemployment situation. This is the kind of policy that the sacrifice of our martyrs demands.

Schools of the Americas and Ft Gulick

The situation involving Ft Gulick and the School of the Americas should be solved intelligently, in a way that creates no reduction in the city of Colon's income, and that ensures that our tricolor flag waves there alone, that the area falls under the exclusive jurisdiction of Panamanians.

The Third Force that we represent, relying upon the rights derived from its youth and its popular roots, acknowledges the existence of this important commitment and, before the tomb of our nationalist heroes, assumes the responsibility of implementing an equitable, just, and national program, so that when the Third Force becomes the government in the near future, it can work to ensure that the reverted canal assets and areas provide the greatest possible benefits for all our people.

If yesterday's Panamanians struggled and died to rescue this great heritage, today's Panamanians, without exclusion or privilege, have the right to use it and to improve it. However, this will not be possible if our people are not prepared to build their own future by supporting the best solutions to the issue of the reverted areas. We urge the people to support the Third Force in this program for recovery of the canal as the best possible homage to those who died for Panama's independence and sovereignty.

Glory to the heroes of the Panamanian people!
Glory to the January 1964 martyrs!

DEFENSE FORCES ON FALSE POLITICAL SOLICITATIONS

PA081619 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 7 Jan 84

[Text] The command of the Panamanian Defense Forces issued a communique today warning private individuals and businesses about some persons who are collecting money for political purposes by falsely using the name of the Defense Forces. The communique stated that at no time have the Defense Forces authorized anyone to carry out this harmful activity, which is contrary to the Defense Forces' desire and determination to promote a climate of tranquillity in the country.

FRAMPO WANTS ALLIANCE BASED ON EQUALITY

PA081544 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 6 Jan 84 pp 1, 14

[Communique issued by the Popular Broad Front in Panama City on 5 January; boldface as published]

[Excerpts] THE POPULAR BROAD FRONT (FRAMPO) PARTY reports to the public that it has studied and analyzed the proposals and solutions to national problems offered by pre-candidates to THE PRESIDENCY AND VICE PRESIDENCY OF THE REPUBLIC for the elections to be held on 6 May 1984.

During a meeting held yesterday by FRAMPO'S EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, it was deemed advisable to announce to all FRAMPO members as well as to the people in general that as of this date FRAMPO does not have any political commitment to any pre-candidate for the presidency of the Republic, nor has FRAMPO made any political alliance with any other political parties. The FRAMPO National Executive Committee also decided to reiterate to its members that the party STILL MAINTAINS its political independence, and that in due time the party will consult its leaders in order to make the political decision regarding elections that best suits the party's and the homeland's interests.

Finally, FRAMPO's National Executive Committee hereby declares that it does deem it necessary to run in the coming elections as part of a political alliance, but that this alliance must be formed on the basis of equality, with objectives and goals arrived at through negotiations and a full, sincere dialogue among all political parties that will comprise this political alliance for the 1984 elections.

Panama City, 5 January 1984
FRAMPO NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
MARIO AROSEMENA Q; National Information Secretary

PANAMA'S ORTEGA COMMENTS ON CONTADORA MEETING

PA092217 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1730 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Video press conference held by Panamanian Foreign Minister Oyden Ortega at the El Panama Hilton Hotel in Panama City on 9 January; reporters not identified -- live, broadcast in progress]

[Text] [Oyden Ortega] The only formal proposal that was discussed was that prepared by the Contadora Group. The foreign ministers also presented a document in which they comment on the Contadora proposal and suggest some very slight modifications, but the basis of the negotiations was the Document of Principles for the implementation of the commitments undertaken in the Document of Objectives that was approved by the Contadora Group in December. Thus, the proposal mentioned was really an additional contribution to the achievement of peace and the success of the meeting, but it was considered a Contadora document.

[First reporter] Mr Minister, what was the outcome of this Contadora Group meeting?

[Ortega] The initial conclusion is recognition of the need to implement the approved 21-point Document of Objectives, and this means that we are already prepared to begin to take concrete measures pertaining to security aspects, to political affairs, and to economic and social issues in the Central American area that will eventually result in definite peace. We also created working commissions for each of these three areas which will provide reports on 30 April that will be considered plans for the final treaties to be negotiated and signed.

[Second reporter] In practical terms, when will we see some results of the Contadora Group's effort?

[Ortega] Results can already be seen. Many results can already be seen. There is detente in the area, which was not true 2 months ago. There is an approved Document of Objectives, as well as another document that we approved last night establishing concrete regulations and concrete commitments to provide information from the area's states for an arms inventory, to reduce the number of men in arms, to reduce the arms race, to create zones that will permit real negotiations, to effect internal reconciliation within each country, and to produce economic projects for the region that will contribute to lasting peace.

[Third reporter] Does this guarantee, Mr Minister, that there will be no warlike interruption of the negotiations for peace?

[Ortega] Any warlike action conflicts with the spirit of Contadora, and the very purpose of Contadora is to render a diplomatic or political solution the superior option so that it will prevail over a warlike solution.

[First reporter] Are the city or province of Panama or the Republic itself in danger because of the situation in Central America and as a result of the statements [not further identified] made today, Mr Minister?

[Ortega] I would say that Panama can show the world that it is an able mediator. This does not mean that there are no problems in Panama, but our participation in Contadora is intended to prevent a Central American war that would greatly harm Panama and the Panamanians.

Thus, it must be understood why Panama is involved in this. It is not simply to serve as a mediator, but to preserve the country, and because our participation encourages Panamanians to realize that the best way to resolve issues is by engaging in dialogue and by solving the people's social problems.

COSTA RICA

SPANISH FOREIGN MINISTER MORAN CONTINUES VISIT

Meets With Ambassadors

PA091702 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Text] The Central American situation and its evolution were the key points analyzed yesterday by Spanish Foreign Minister Fernando Moran and the Spanish ambassadors to the Central American and Caribbean regions.

In this examination, Spanish foreign policy directives were established and the foreign minister compiled general information on what is happening in each country as well as on the perspectives for the future of Spanish-Latin American relations. The other topics discussed were not revealed because they pertain to Spanish Foreign Ministry relations with each country in the region.

When he was in Buenos Aires, Foreign Minister Moran met with the Spanish ambassadors of the southern zone, each of whom presented a report on his work and the needs of his mission. This was also the case with the Central American and Caribbean ambassadors.

On analyzing the Central American situation, the Spanish foreign minister and the ambassadors in the region expressed Spain's interest in promoting the Contadora Group process. In this regard, (Fernando Schwartz), Foreign Minister Moran's spokesman, said that Spain supports the Contadora Group process as the only valid means of peacefully resolving the Central American situation by Central Americans themselves. He later added that the Spanish Government does not have any desire to intervene where it is not called on and that it only acts when it is asked. Spain expects the current Contadora Group meeting to yield concrete situations leading to definite solutions, coinciding with recent statements by President Luis Alberto Monge.

Regarding the Nicaraguan situation, Foreign Minister Moran's spokesman said that Spain -- without wanting to interfere -- feels it would be ideal for the Nicaraguan regime to return to its original Sandinist plan. Asked if the Spanish Government feels that the Sandinist leaders have deserted their original plan (Schwartz) said: No, I do mean to say that the Sandinists, perhaps pushed by a very complex situation, have gone a little too far in their stance, and it would be ideal for them to resume their original plans. Foreign Minister Moran said when he arrived on Saturday that Spain feels it is necessary for the Sandinist regime to return to the original plans of the revolution.

The greater part of the official activities Foreign Minister Moran will conduct during his visit are planned for today. At 0830 he will place a wreath at the National Monument. Later, he will meet with Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez. At mid-morning he will meet with First Vice President Alberto Fait to analyze some cooperation projects, and before noon he will be received by President Luis Alberto Monge, who will host a lunch in his honor. In the afternoon, he will participate in work sessions at the Foreign Ministry and will later hold a press conference where a joint declaration will be issued.

Talks With Gutierrez, Monge

LD092146 Madrid Domestic Service in Spanish 2000 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Text] Spanish Foreign Minister Fernando Moran, who is paying an official visit to Costa Rica, has described the outcome of the Contadora Group meeting as very positive.

Moran today had a meeting with his counterpart, Carlos Jose Gutierrez. Their discussions dealt mainly with Central America. Later he met Vice President Alberto Fait.

Later in the day, the Spanish foreign minister lunched with Costa Rican President Luis Alberto Monge.

CIVIL GUARD, RURAL POLICE TO COORDINATE ACTION

PA061920 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 6 Jan 84

[Text] The State Security Council has ordered that the control of the border area with Nicaragua must be exclusively in the charge of the Civil Guard. The Rural Police will act in a reserve support position to reinforce the Civil Guard when it asks for backup support, and it has been said that the Rural Police will remain in the fixed posts that it has always had in the border area.

This measure has been adopted owing to the disagreements that have emerged from remarks made by the deputy government minister, (Enrique) Chacon [surname indistinct], who has asserted that members of the Sandinist People's Army had penetrated Costa Rican territory in the region of the (?plains) of San Carlos to surprise groups of rebels fighting the Nicaraguan regime. These remarks were rejected by Public Security Minister Edmundo Solano Calderon [words indistinct].

In view of the conflicting reports on the events that took place on the (?plains) of San Carlos that have been submitted by the Civil Guard and the Rural Police, the Security Council has ordered that a high-level commission investigate the incidents. This commission includes Civil Guard Director (Oscar Vidal), Rural Police Director (Rigoberto Badilla), and Attorney General [Procurador] (Francisco Villalobo).

They will visit the scene of the incident within the next few days and submit a report that will be studied by the other members of the Security Council, which will then pass it on to the Foreign Ministry so that it can take the pertinent measures.

Although the control of the border area will remain the responsibility of the Civil Guard, it has now been ordered that the country's two most important police corps fully coordinate their actions. In order to implement this coordination, Ministers Alfonso Carro Zuniga and Edmundo Solano Calderon must coordinate all the actions of the two police corps in order to prevent disagreements.

The Security Council has stressed the fact that the two police corps are committed to and act in defense of the principle of neutrality and, therefore, that the charges that have been made that the Civil Guard is at the service of the Sandinists and that the Rural Police are at the service of the counterrevolution have been categorically rejected. The Security Council has stated that this kind of (?report) only favors the enemies of Costa Rica's democracy, and that they instigate a lack of confidence in the people toward their police corps.

The reports that come from the Rural Police and Civil Guard agree that in effect there is evidence that shots were fired into Costa Rican territory. Nevertheless, the report on the possible penetration of Costa Rican territory by members of the Sandinist People's Army cannot be appropriately verified [words indistinct] verify an armed confrontation on the Costa Rican side.

In view of this disagreement, a high-level commission has been ordered to the scene to make a thorough investigation of the situation so that the Foreign Ministry can take the pertinent steps.

According to the vice minister of the presidency, (Manuel Carvallo Quintana), there was no disagreement on any of the points that were approved by the Security Council, becuase all the points were unanimously approved.

HAVANA: COMMISSION CONFIRMS CONTRAS' PRESENCE

FL091705 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Text] Troops of the Sandinist People's Army [EPS] killed 41 infiltrators in Nueva Segovia and Matagalpa Departments in clashes that occurred in northern Nicaragua in the past 3 days. It has also been reported that a similar confrontation occurred on a mountain north of Jinotega Province bordering Honduras where five EPS women combatants were killed in action.

A Costa Rican Government commission has confirmed the presence of Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries in Costa Rican territory after the discovery of a camp in the northern region. The Costa Rican authorities said that it was an abandoned camp located approximately 6 km west of Las Delicias ranch on the border with Nicaragua.

The commission was made up of Colonel Oscar Vidal, director of Public Forces, Colonel Carlos Camacho, subcommander of the Rural Assistance Guard, Francisco Villalobos, international affairs lawyer, and Flavio Leon, legal adviser of the Public Security Ministry.

PVP LEADER DISCUSSES PARTY INFIGHTING, POLICIES

PA061515 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0030 GMT 6 Jan 84

[Excerpt] Popular Vanguard Party [PVP] Deputy Arnoldo Ferreto Segura today said during a news conference that he deeply regrets the decision adopted by brothers Eduardo and Manuel Mora not to accept the positions offered to them in the PVP. The Communist legislator added that this is causing problems within the PVP, but that the committee maintains and will maintain its firm determination to support the agreements that were reached as well as the party's unity.

Commenting on the decisions adopted by the PVP Congress, Ferreto Segura noted that measures have been taken to stop factionalism and to safeguard party unity. He added that there neither has been nor is anything shady, selfish, or hidden in the decisions that were adopted by the PVP Congress and Central Committee (?Plenum).

Ferreto asserted that there are currents within the PVP which [words indistinct] have pressured the Mora Valverde brothers into not accepting those appointments; that is, the posts of PVP president and assistant secretary.

The pressures from the press have given rise to negative undercurrents within the PVP. The press is very powerful. It has been engaged in a campaign to slander the PVP and confuse the public about its internal problems, and our party is not isolated by a Chinese wall, Ferreto said. He added that the resources available to counter this campaign are very limited. Finally, he said that the decisions adopted by the PVP are overwhelmingly supported by the party's rank and file.

Ferreto said that as long as the paths to peaceful development of the revolutionary movement remain open and the rules of the game of bourgeois democracy are observed, the Communist Party will not take the path of violence.

EL SALVADOR

MAGANA ON ELECTIONS, NICARAGUA, U.S. AID

PM091751 Madrid ABC in Spanish 22 Dec 83 pp 36-37

[Interview with President Alvaro Magana by Torcuato Luca de Tena in San Salvador; date not given]

[Excerpts] Question: When are the next presidential elections scheduled to take place?

Answer: On 25 March.

Question: Is there any chance of any of the rival parties gaining a majority?

Answer: I believe it is very unlikely, very unlikely. I believe that the political proportions in the March 1984 presidential elections will not substantially alter the results of the 1982 constitutional elections.

Question: That means that the Christian Democrats will come first, then the ARENA, or extreme right, while the conflicting third- and fourth-place parties (National Conciliation Party and Democratic Action) will play a major role in the second round of elections, depending on whether they ally with the winner or the runner-up. Mr President, in your opinion, is my interpretation correct?

Answer: I believe that the country is tired of the usual protagonists. I do not know, I cannot say anything about it.

Question: I understand that the parties that came in third and fourth in the last elections have very charismatic leaders.

Answer: Yes, I believe that their leaders are very responsible.

Question: The current minister of the presidency is running for the National Conciliation Party. Today's newspapers announced his official candidacy. If you had any advice to give him, what would it be?

Answer: Let him choose someone "apolitical" as his vice president -- a professional man with prestige not involved in recent turbulent political events.

Question: Won't you be running for reelection, Mr President?

Answer: No.

Question: Mr President, how do the guerrillas supply themselves, and where from?

Answer: Be sure of this: from Nicaragua, and only from Nicaragua. In the past 2 weeks we have detected 68 incursions by aircraft which parachuted equipment, weapons, and ammunition into the Morazan area, which is where the guerrillas are largely concentrated. I will reveal something to you that may surprise you: my profound admiration for a particular quality of the subversive guerrillas and their protectors. Namely, the art of distorting the truth and finding an audience (even in pro-Western, not pro-Soviet, countries) to heed and believe them. It is an incredible quality which one can only admire. They are masters of propaganda, they are artists in the manipulation of facts -- true masters of the art of resorting to lies.

Question: I would remind you, Mr President, that one of Lenin's maxims was: "Against bodies, violence, against souls, lies."

Answer: Well, they have learned the lesson very well. While Managua draws the world's attention by claiming that it is about to be invaded for the past 2 years, they have not ceased to invade our country for one moment. There is only one point of departure for the armed subversion: Nicaragua.

Question: Mr President, has there been any attempt to establish contacts with the guerrillas, to incorporate them into the country's democratic process, as Venezuela successfully did in past decades?

Answer: I find your question very interesting because I personally have tried to do it twice.

Question: On Salvadoran territory?

Answer: No. On Colombian territory. I asked Colombian President Betancur to act as mediator for me to attempt a reconciliation. I did not succeed.

Question: I sometimes think, Mr Magana, that, if it had wanted to, the United States could long ago have ended this latent war and that you receive U.S. aid little by little.

Answer: President Carter's policy was one of absolute blindness and incomprehension. Now things have changed. Nevertheless, when we sometimes ask for specific assistance (four helicopters, for instance) to evacuate a hill taken by the rebels or to combat a newly-discovered infiltration, they take 6 months to send it. I believe that this will change now and that the United States will step up its aid. Not only with the aim of ridding us of this scourge of armed subversion, which has been going on for 4 years, but also because of its repercussions on the U.S. public and for President Reagan's reelection, especially in the light of his rise in popularity following the intervention on Grenada.

ANTICOMMUNIST GROUP DEMANDS END TO U.S. PRESSURE

PA092250 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 0000 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Text] The Anticommunist Brigade has demanded that the United States show more respect for our country. In a communique sent to this news service, the General Maximiliano Hernandez Martinez Anticommunist Brigade demands that the United States definitely show more respect for the dignity and integrity of El Salvador and for the Armed Forces in particular.

The members of the Maximiliano Hernandez Martinez Anticommunist Brigade stress in their terse communique that the decision by U.S. politicians to purge some elements of the Armed Forces is an attempt to impede democracy and freedom and an action against the Armed Forces' existence. The brigade adds that the charges leveled at military officers by U.S. politicians are intended to permit the totalitarian forces and enemies of democracy in El Salvador to make further headway.

REPORTAGE ON ARMY-REBEL MILITARY ACTIONS

COPREFA: 25 Rebel Casualties

PA062252 San Salvador Radio Cadena Sonora in Spanish 1200 GMT 6 Jan 84

[Communique issued by the Armed Forces Press Committee, COPREFA, no date given]

[Text] The Armed Forces Press Committee reports that the FMLN suffered 25 more casualties in Chalatenango. It has been reported that the rebel ranks suffered 25 more casualties 2 days ago. The extremist hordes stopped a bus of the Sagrado Corazon Company on the road between the towns of La Laguna and Comalapa, forced the passengers to get off, and used the bus to take away their dead, who were taken to the town of Ojos de Agua in the same department.

These rebel casualties are in addition to the 250 deaths and a still undetermined number of wounded inflicted during the heroic resistance in El Paraiso.

In addition, members of the Training Center for Armed Forces Engineers have clashed with leftist groups in the village of El Salto, Canton El Salto, jurisdiction of San Juan Nonualco. The number of casualties inflicted on the rebels is unknown. The Army suffered only one dead.

Havana on Rebel Ambush

FL061255 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1206 GMT 6 Jan 84

[Text] The Armed Forces Press Committee [COPREFA] has reported that Salvadoran guerrilla units ambushed a military convoy in La Paz Department and inflicted one casualty on the Army. The action was carried out last night on a stretch of the Coastal Highway near Zacatecoluca, 56 km southeast of San Salvador. The trucks that were attacked were carrying members of the Armed Forces Engineering Training Center. According to SALPRES, FMLN urban rebels attacked troops guarding a substation on the outskirts of San Salvador on the Soyapango Road. Meanwhile, it was reported that a Salvadoran Air Force A-37 strafed the outskirts of Chalatenango, 72 km north of San Salvador.

Army Begins Counterinsurgency Drive

PA070414 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1730 GMT 6 Jan 84

[By Raul Beltran]

[Text] The Armed Forces have begun a large-scale counterinsurgency operation in the northern department of Chalatenango. The operation is being carried out by members of the 4th Brigade in El Paraiso, near the towns of Tejutla and Dulce Nombre de Maria. Military sources with relatives in that area said today that the operations are successful, as the rebels have been evicted.

The largest operation began today with the participation of members of the Cavalry and the 1st and 4th Brigades -- supported by air and land forces, particularly artillery. Meanwhile, Air Force units successfully continue their bombings of rebel camps near El Jicaro and Las Vueltas, 70 km north of Chalatenango Department's capital. The Armed Forces also reported that thus far they have inflicted 17 casualties on the leftist groups.

Military sources in Chalatenanga report that military units are carrying out a similar operation in Usulutan Department, in the eastern sector of the country. Sources from the Atonal Battalion confirmed today that they have begun another counterinsurgency operation throughout the department. The operation includes participation by members of the 6th Brigade, airborne squads, the Atonal Battalion, and troops from the 3d Brigade, located in San Miguel. A total of 4,000 men are participating in this operation in Usulutan Department, where leftist rebels destroyed the Cuscatlan Bridge last Sunday.

According to the military information, there were clashes with leftist rebels this afternoon in the province of San Agustin. The Army engaged in combat with rebels for approximately one hour, resulting in one dead soldier and several casualties among the rebels. Air Force units have been continuously bombing the leftist rebel positions after Push-Pull [in English] airplanes conducted reconnaissance flights.

Other reports reveal that the Armed Forces' artillery has been constantly firing at leftist rebel positions in the conflict area of Guazapa Hill, 40 km north of San Salvador. Further information from Usulutan Department reveals that FMLN rebels attacked a vigilance post installed by the Army on the outskirts of Santiago de Maria on the road from the small town of Alegria.

Meanwhile, counterinsurgency operations have increased in San Vicente Department during the last few hours to neutralize FMLN leftist rebel actions. The rebels have been spotted in various sectors of the department by military intelligence units and civilian collaborators.

CONARA Plan Being 'Defeated'

PA071315 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 1830 GMT 6 Jan 84

[Text] The constant actions of our guerrilla and militia military units have defeated the political-military plan of the CONARA [National Commission for the Reconstruction of Affected Areas]. CONARA is crumbling in defeat because it does not have the support of the San Vicente people. The most ambitious strategic plan designed by the military and political analysts of Yankee imperialism is crumbling.

On the central front, our militia have cut off electricity in all of northern El Salvador. On 3 January at 2100, our militia units blew up two electric power poles at km 26 of the Northern Trunk Highway. On Wednesday, 4 January, joint militia and guerrilla forces along with combative groups of the masses seized the road from Tecoluca to the Jiboa Sugar Mill for 3 hours. This operation began at 2300 with the toppling of four electricity poles and one telephone service pole. Our units established revolutionary checkpoints on the road, where meetings were held with sugarcane workers and drivers, who were told of the fall of the El Paraiso Garrison and the great victories obtained by our FMLN. Our forces withdrew at 0200 yesterday after fulfilling the planned political and military objectives.

On 3 January, militia units completely seized the town of Santa Clara, north of the Pan American Highway. They told the townspeople about the fall of the 4th Infantry Brigade Garrison. That same day, other militia units distributed propaganda in Santa Rosa, San Jacinto, El Tortuguero, and the turnoff to El Rosario, in San Vicente Department, where the residents showed their great support for the indomitable struggle of our armed people.

Rebels Occupy Stations

PA070457 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2317 GMT 6 Jan 84

[Text] San Salvador, 6 Jan (ACAN-EFE) -- An urban commando group of Salvadoran guerrillas occupied the installations of two commercial radio stations of this capital today and broadcast a communique over one of them on the recent attacks on the military base in the northern part of the country.

The rebels, who identified themselves as members of the "Clara Elizabeth Ramirez Metropolitan Front," took over the installations of "Radiopolis" in the jurisdiction of Mejicanos in the northern part of San Salvador at noon and broadcast a message lasting almost half an hour. Later, members of the same organization occupied the installations of "Radiopolis" in the foothills of the San Salvador Volcano, but according to what employees told ACAN-EFE, the rebels were unable to transmit the message due to technical problems. They left after an hour.

FMLN on Air Force Bombings

PA070341 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 0100 GMT 7 Jan 84

[Text] The Air Force has bombed the civilian population in Chalatenango Department. Today, 6 January, three A-37 airplanes and a Push-Pull [in English] aircraft bombed and strafed several cantons in Las Vueltas municipality, Chalatenango Department. The dictatorship's planes arrived at around 0700 and for 45 minutes bombed and strafed the civilians of El Jicaro, El Sicahuite, El Potrero, (Plan del Barro), and Los Naranjos. Two days ago the regime's Air Force strafed the area near the departmental capital of Chalatenango, and yesterday it fired rockets near Dulce Nombre de Maria.

Destruction, genocide, and terror against the defenseless civilian population are the regime's reaction to the crushing defeat our revolutionary battalions inflicted on it with their attack and destruction of the El Paraiso Garrison on 30 December. The high command claims that it has begun a big offensive in Chalatenango Department. This is false. The only thing these criminals are doing under the command of Rafael Bustillos [Air Force commander] is terrorizing hundreds of women, children, and old people who live in the zones under revolutionary control and nearby towns.

Havana: Rebels Making Gains

FL071454 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 7 Jan 84

[Text] FMLN forces are occupying nearly all of the Department of Chalatenango as well as the Northern Trunk Highway [Carretera Troncal del Norte].

A recent Radio Farabundo Marti broadcast reported actions by the regime's Air Force near the city of Chalatenango, where airplanes savagely bombed the civilian population. It was claimed that they hit guerrilla objectives. It was also learned that some 4,000 Salvadoran Army troops are making desperate efforts to try to halt the advance of the rebels in Usulutan, among them (?bombings) by the elite U.S.-trained Atonal Battalion.

The guerrilla forces have continued their fierce fighting in the area around Suchitoto, while the regime's troops are trying to control the main lines of communication leading to the departmental capital of San Vicente in order to prevent that city from falling into the hands of the rebels.

It is also believed that the forced recruitment of young people and children in the poor neighborhoods of San Vicente is a reflection of the Army's inability to contain the rebel offensive in that area, according to the news media.

Havana Notes Army Desertions

PA082344 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 8 Jan 84

[Text] The Salvadoran news agency NOTISAL has reported that more than 100 Salvadoran Army officers have been arrested for refusing to fight the guerrillas and for opposing the death squads. The source noted that the arrest of the officers, most of whom are in the lower ranks, is intended to end the sharp differences in the military over the current state of the war and the activities of the ultra-rightist groups in El Salvador.

According to NOTISAL, the highest number of desertions has taken place among the elite, U.S.-adviser-trained Atlacatl, Atonal, Ramon Belloso, and Jose Manuel Arce Battalions. The agency reported that the military authorities have unleashed a campaign of threats against the relatives of the deserting soldiers and officers to pressure the deserters to return to the Army's ranks in exchange for their relatives' freedom.

FMLN Attacks Army Post

PA081314 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0230 GMT 8 Jan 84

[Text] On Saturday, 7 January, at 1330, FMLN forces stormed the position of the dictatorship's Army in Nombre de Jesus municipality, east of Chalatenango, only 2 km from the important 5 November Dam.

During the attack, our revolutionary forces seized 20 rifles, two .30-cal machineguns, and 8,000 cartridges of various calibers. In addition, we killed three and wounded one. The rest of the soldiers dropped their weapons and fled. We did not lose a single man. This operation was led by Companero Jacobo.

FMLN on Captured Arms, Casualties

PA090040 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 1830 GMT 8 Jan 84

[Text] Our political-military campaign is advancing throughout the nation. In just 10 days of national campaigning, our army, which upholds the ideals of our revolutionary patriot Agustin Farabundo Marti, has seized 334 rifles, 20 M-60 machineguns, two 30-cal machineguns, three .50-cal machineguns. 11 M-79 grenade launchers, seven 90-mm cannon, three 60-mm mortars, two 81-mm mortars, 10 MP-5 submachineguns, and 28 military radios, totaling 392 weapons.

We have also inflicted more than 321 casualties on Vides Casanova's puppet Army, including 22 officers and 40 NCO's. We took 229 prisoners of war, including Captain Pedro Wilfredo Hidalgo Avila.

We destroyed the important 4th Infantry Brigade Garrison, the strategic Cuscatlan Bridge, an electric power substation, a microwave parabolic antenna, two armored vehicles, two Massinger armored trucks, and five Army trucks.

Thus, we are seizing an average of 39 arms per day and are inflicting more than 30 casualties per day on the dictatorship's Army, which was trained and armed by the insolent Yankees.

Our beloved people are marching without hesitation toward total victory over the injustice, poverty, exploitation, and humiliation to which the criminals are subjecting them.

Eternal glory to the brave and fearless heroes of 30 December!

Long live the battalions of the Commander Felipe Pena Mendoza Group!

All of the people will oppose imperialist intervention until victory!

United to fight until final victory! Revolution or death, we will win!

Army Drive Kills 15 Rebels

PA092127 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 0000 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Text] The continuing counterinsurgency operation in Usulutan is now in its 4th day.

Following the rebels' destruction of the Cuscatlan Bridge on Sunday, the Atonal Battalion, belonging to the 3d Brigade, headquartered in San Miguel, has continued its counter insurgency operation with artillery and air support.

This afternoon, our newsroom and "Sunday News Approach" [Enfoque Noticioso Dominical, name of newscast] were informed that five camps have been destroyed in various parts of the department and in the vicinity of the Cuscatlan Bridge, and that 15 rebels were killed while trying to fight military units in the country's so-called grain belt.

FARABUNDO MARTI NOTES CONTADORA RESULTS

PA100242 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 1830 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Text] The latest meeting of the Contadora Group with the five Central American foreign ministers was described as an important step forward in the efforts to achieve a peace treaty for the Central American area. Specifically, three working commissions were created, which will present a plan by 30 April 1984. After that date, specific peace treaties could be adopted. Half of the Central American countries have agreed to make an inventory of their military installations, weapons, and troops as a means of achieving control and reduction in these areas.

Among the subjects that were discussed were the gradual withdrawal of military advisers in each of the countries; the creation of mechanisms that will facilitate dialogue; guarantees for complete respect for human rights; and economic agreements among the Central American countries. The agreements that were reached during the meeting were described as a tentative peace plan and a source of hope for Central America.

VENCEREMOS NOTES PLANS FOR 'AHUAS TARA III'

PA071635 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 7 Jan 84

[Text] The third phase of the Honduran-U.S. "Ahuas Tara III" maneuvers scheduled for June will be carried out in a place known as (El Presidio), where the Guatemalan, Salvadoran, and Honduran borders converge. Honduran military sources have said that it is very probably that the "Ahuas Tara III" maneuvers will end with a landing exercise involving U.S., Honduran, Guatemalan, and Salvadoran troops. It was also learned that Green Berets and a special U.S. air assault group will participate in the "Ahuas Tara III" maneuvers.

The announcement of the upcoming Ahuas Tara III maneuvers comes at a time when the Honduran Government speaks of presenting new peace proposals to the Contadora Group. The Honduran dictators hypocritically talk of peace when they are really preparing the way for a Yankee intervention.

The Salvadoran people will defeat the invaders!

VENCEREMOS OBJECTS TO HONDURAN REFUGEE TRANSFER

PA071700 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 7 Jan 84

[Text] The Salvadorans who fled from the bestial repression of the Salvadoran dictatorship went to Honduras hoping to find security and respect for human rights. However, our Salvadoran brothers who had sought refuge in areas near the homeland were informed today that they will be transferred deeper into Honduran territory, to Yoro Department. Suazo Cordova's and Alvarez Martinez' pro-imperialist government's intentions are very clear; they want to clear the border area to prepare for intervention and establish greater control over our Salvadoran brothers, who will be transferred to concentration camps instead of refugee camps.

The Salvadoran refugees strongly reject the transfer deep into Honduran territory and the threats of Alvarez Martinez' regime. As of now, we blame the Honduran Government for the fate of our countrymen because of their forced transfer to the interior of Honduras.

HAVANA RADIO REPORTS ON VARIOUS ISSUES

White Commission Report

PA081824 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 8 Jan 84

[Text] The so-called White Commission has charged in Washington that the unconditional U.S. military aid to El Salvador is the main incentive for the existence of the death squads in that Central American country. The private commission chaired by Robert White, former U.S. ambassador to El Salvador, is made up of several Latin American personalities.

A report issued by the commission stated that Washington's plan to increase military aid to the Salvadoran regime in view of the alleged decrease of crimes and repression in that Central American nation encourages the activities of the death squads. The report directly links former Constituent Assembly leader Roberto D'Aubuisson to those paramilitary groups. On the basis of all available evidence, it identifies him with the assassination of Archbishop Oscar Arnulfo Romero.

It added that no one can state that the repressive apparatus has been dismantled in El Salvador until those who promote and lead the death squads are brought to justice.

Secret U.S. Agreement

PA091930 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Text] New guerrilla actions were carried out in central and northern El Salvador. Rebel groups attacked the garrison in Nombre de Jesus and seized 19 rifles and 3 mortars from the Army. Three soldiers were killed in the fighting.

Other rebel groups dynamited high-tension line poles, leaving a large part of San Vicente Department without power.

Official sources confirmed that on Saturday forces of the Salvadoran regime bombed alleged guerrilla positions in the northern area of Guazapa Volcano.

Other reports, citing White House sources, disclosed that the Ronald Reagan government and the Salvadoran regime have signed a secret agreement so that the Salvadoran regime will reduce the activities of the death squads in exchange for an increase in U.S. military aid. A U.S. Government official who asked to remain anonymous said that the secret agreement was signed in December during U.S. Vice President George Bush's visit to El Salvador. The source indicated that three high-ranking Salvadoran Army officers linked to the death squads will be transferred to posts abroad, but that the main leaders of those groups have not been removed from their positions in the Armed Forces.

Common Burial of Paraiso Soldiers

PA071340 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 7 Jan 84

[Text] The Salvadoran regime rapidly buried the 100 soldiers killed during the rebel attack on the El Paraiso headquarters in a common grave to avoid paying life insurance benefits to their relatives. The U.S. paper MIAMI HERALD revealed that the 100 soldiers were buried without being identified and without death certificates, which saved the regime $240,000 in insurance benefits.

Elsewhere, it was reported that a Salvadoran judge ordered the release of Army Captain Eduardo Avila, one of the officers involved in the murder of U.S. agricultural experts Michael Hammer and Mark David in January 1982. Avila was arrested in December 1983 when two National Guard agents confessed killing the two North Americans on orders of that army officer.

Other wire reports revealed that the FMLN of El Salvador released 114 soldiers to the International Red Cross captured during the attack and occupation of El Paraiso headquarters.

The rebel's Radio Farabundo Marti reported that Air Force planes this morning attacked the community of Las Vueltas, in Chalatenango Department, and that the attack presumably caused numerous civilian victims.

San Salvador Bishop on Peace

FL091915 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Text] The Salvadoran Catholic Church warned of the danger of an uncontrollable escalation of violence in the country under the pretext of fighting subversion, which might kill innocent people.

During Sunday's sermon at the Metropolitan Cathedral, Monsignor Gregory Rosa Chavez, assistant bishop of San Salvador expressed his concern over the seeking of a purely military solution, forgetting that conflicts can also be solved through dialogue.

Evidently alluding to the U.S. Government and its advisers, the bishop warned of the danger of trying to win a war by all possible means when the most important objective is to win peace, which is a hard task, a challenge, he stressed.

GUATEMALA

GOVERNMENT ACCUSES USSR OF PRESS CONTROL PLAN

PA092003 Guatemala City Radio Television Guatemala in Spanish 0400 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Text] Guatemala yesterday accused the Soviet Union of attempting to carry out a bold plan within UNESCO to establish state control of the press. On Saturday the office of the head of state issued a bulletin saying that the international press had been commenting on a skillful (?move) by the Soviet Union within UNESCO, headquartered in Paris.

The bulletin described UNESCO's General Director Amadou Mahtar M'Bow from Senegal as a communist. The Guatemalan head of state's office added that the Soviet Union, supported by a group of communist and Third World countries, is pressuring for motions to give governments control of the press in each country through state-controlled news agencies, as in the Soviet Union itself, the PRC, Cuba, Bulgaria, Ethiopia Angola, Albania, Afghanistan, and other communist countries.

The maneuver has been directed at private news agencies in the free world, the bulletin said. The Guatemalan Government's accusation against UNESCO comes 1 week after the United States announced its withdrawal from the organization, stating that the organization had deviated from the objectives for which it was created, becoming a political forum favoring Soviet interests and threatening freedom of the press.

TALKS TO RESTORE RELATIONS WITH SPAIN SUSPENDED

PA091419 Bogota Emisoras CARACOL Network in Spanish 1215 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Text] Bogota -- Talks between Spain and Guatemala to reach an agreement on the reestablishment of bilateral dioplomatic relations have unexpectedly been suspended. The announcement was made by (Fernando Suaz), director of Spain's diplomatic information office, who refused to give details. He said that the talks, which were made possible by Colombian President Belisario Betancur and which were held at Narino Palace, have not led to the drafting of a text to be approved by the interested parties. Spain broke relations with Guatemala following the occupation of the Spanish Embassy in Guatemala City by peasants who were killed by the local Army.

ENFOPRENSA ON GOVERNMENT, REBEL ACTIVITIES

PA081523 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0753 GMT 7 Jan 84

[Excerpt] Mexico City, 7 Jan (LATIN-REUTER) -- Guatemalan Government troops killed 27 persons and wounded 54 during the last week of antiguerrilla violence, the opposition news agency ENFOPRENSA said in a report released here today. The Guatemalan opposition group claimed that the deaths caused by the security forces occurrred between 30 December and 5 January, and that most of the victims showed signs of torture. During this same period, the security forces wounded 54 persons, while 15 others were kidnapped or reported missing, the report states.

In a separate statement, the agency indicated that 4 left-wing guerrilla groups staged 102 operations in December against the Guatemalan military government headed by General Oscar Humberto Mejia Victores. Citing government and rebel sources, the agency said the government sustained a total of 286 dead as a result of 32 rebel military actions, including an ambush in the northern part of El Peten.

HAVANA QUOTES ENFOPRENSA ON POLICE ARRESTS

FL061759 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1550 GMT 6 Jan 84

[Text] ENFOPRENSA has reported that 25 people were arrested in Guatemala accused of being suspicious. Another two persons were kidnapped in Guatemala City [words indistinct]. The news agency noted that it was officially disclosed in Guatemala City that policemen made these arrests in an operation carried out on Tuesday. According to a police communique, approximately 18,400 people were arrested in 1983. Meanwhile, PRENSA LIBRE said that the country's economic crisis has further deteriorated and the outlook for this year is discouraging.

HAVANA ROUNDS UP REBEL ACTIONS IN DECEMBER

PA090007 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 7 Jan 84

[Text] News dispatches from the capital of Guatemala indicate that in December, the guerrilla forces inflicted over 200 casualties on the regime's Army, occupied 22 towns, controlled sections of rural roads in this Central American country, and carried out 3 sabotage operations.

These actions were carried out by units belonging to the Revolutionary Organization of the People in Arms [ORPA], the Rebel Armed Forces [FAR], and the Poor People's Guerrilla Army [EGP], which jointly comprise the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity [URNG].

The dispatches say that the Guatemalan rebels' actions in December also included attacks on Army posts and eight police stations in Guatemala City and an ambush in El Peten Department, in which the Army suffered 86 casualties. The Guatemalan patriots also destroyed one plane, damaged another, and demolished a government public relations office, the reports conclude.

HONDURAS

D'ESCOTO'S CRITICISM OF INITIATIVE REJECTED

PA100224 San Pedro Sula LA PRENSA in Spanish 9 Jan 84 p 5

[Press release issued by the Honduran Government's International Information Directorate in Tegucigalpa on 7 January]

[Text] Once again, the democratic Honduran Government has shown tangible proof of its determination to promote peace in the region by creating an initiative designed to implement the Document of Objectives that was approved in September of last year by the Contadora Group and the Central American countries.

This second proposal, initiated by our country and supported by most of the Central American countries, has already been the object of unfounded criticism from Mr Miguel D'Escoto, Nicaraguan foreign minister, who said, among other inconsistent arguments, that our recommendations run contrary to the spirit of the Contadora Group.

The truth is exactly the opposite of the Sandinist official's allegations. Honduras' new proposal encompasses all of the points contained in the Document of Objectives, and is, moreover, based on these points.

The merit of the Honduran proposal is that it develops those concepts and takes them into the realm of practical action, in an effort to implement the principles established by the Latin American group composed of Mexico, Venezuela, Panama, and Colombia.

Moreover, the new Honduran initiative coincides with the viewpoint of the Contadora Group, which has said explicitly that the problems of these countries are broad-based and regional and that it is up to the Central Americans themselves to solve them.

This is what Honduras is proposing, with majority support from the countries in the area. On the other hand, Nicaragua, repeating the technique used on the occasion of the exodus of Miskitos led by U.S. Bishop Salvador Schlaeffer, is deliberately straying from the the truth and trying to confuse the public, but in this it will be unsuccessful, because every day it becomes clearer to the international public just who is struggling for democracy and peace, and who is promoting violence and oppression in the Caribbean and Central America.

ARMY CLASH WITH EPS IN EL TRIUNFO REPORTED

PA091731 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1658 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 9 Jan (ACAN-EFE) -- Forces of the Honduran Army and soldiers of the Sandinist People's Army [EPS] clashed for 4 hours yesterday in the central part of the border between the two countries, the local HRN radio station today reported. According to the Honduran radio station, "Sandinist soldiers attacked Honduran positions near El Triunfo, on the banks of the Guasaule River, with artillery fire, but were repelled by the Honduran Territorial Forces, who inflicted several casualties on them." The radio station did not report on Honduran Army casualties but said that "the Sandinists withdrew with the support of reinforcements who covered their retreat."

MANAGUA REPORTS FAP THREAT AGAINST U.S. ADVISERS

PA091648 Managua Radio Noticias in Spanish 1200 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Text] A last-minute report from Tegucigalpa states that the guerrilla organization known as the People's Armed Forces [FAP] has threatened the U.S. advisers and even the Honduran soldiers on the U.S. military bases in that country, warning that if they do not leave Honduras they will be the victims of the people's wrath. [sentence as heard]

The guerrillas, who describe as barefaced intervention the presence of U.S. military advisers at the Palmerola and Puerto Castilla military bases, affirm that the executions [ejecuciones] of U.S. citizens will begin in the next few days if they do not leave Honduras. The Honduran guerrilla communique is signed by Manuel Federico, their top leader.

CHILEAN EMBASSY DAMAGED IN DYNAMITE ATTACK

PA081441 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1420 GMT 8 Jan 84

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 8 Jan (ACAN-EFE) -- A bomb hurled from a moving vehicle by unidentified persons damaged windows and the gate of the Chilean Embassy in Tegucigalpa last night.

The bomb was made up of two sticks of dynamite. There were no victims, the Honduran police reported. No group has claimed responsibility for the attack, the first in 1984 in Honduras and the second in 2 years against the Chilean Embassy in Tegucigalpa.

NICARAGUA

KISSINGER REPORT'S VIEW OF C.A. CONFLICT RAPPED

PA091925 Managua Radio Noticias in Spanish 1200 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Text] As our radio audience has very clearly noticed, we have read with optimism the reports on the latest resolutions approved by the Contadora Group. However, everything is not optimism this morning, as items continue to filter in regarding the report Kissinger will present to President Reagan on Wednesday.

The latest that we have on the Kissinger Commission report is that the Central American problem is considered part of the East-West conflict. In his report, Kissinger asserts that the USSR is promoting a communist threat against U.S. security in Central America. We can all imagine what such a statement means, since the report is considered important to U.S. policy.

Nevertheless, we hope that the current efforts by the Contadora Group to prevent war in Central America -- war between Honduras and Nicaragua, or intervention by Central American countries -- will have positive results.

As we reported previously, the Contadora Group foreign ministers have agreed in the past few hours to establish a schedule for the withdrawal of military forces -- troops and military advisers -- from Central America. They have also agreed that an electoral calendar will be prepared in each Central American country. The dismantling of Somozist camps in Honduras was also mentioned.

41 CONTRAS REPORTED KILLED IN NORTHERN REGION

PA091543 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Text] A total of 41 counterrevolutionaries who had infiltrated into our territory have been killed by the Sandinist People's Army, EPS, in various parts of the northern region since 6 January, the Defense Ministry has reported. The operations were carried out by the EPS in the Baka sector, 27 km northeast of Blanco River, where 24 Somozists were killed. Eleven other beasts died in Bayucun, El Guineo, and (La Explosion) Hill, 10 km north of Santa Clara. The report added that 12 more mercenaries were killed in the Jiquelite sector, 12 km southeast of (Yilali).

Havana on Contra Losses

PA092019 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Text] Forces of the Sandinist People's Army [EPS] killed 41 counterrevolutionaries who had infiltrated the Departments of Nueva Segovia and Matagalpa, near the Honduran border. A total of 24 counterrevolutionaries were killed in the area of (Pacas), in Matagalpa, and 17 others died in clashes in El Bayucun, El Guineo, (Cerro), (La Explosion), and Jiquelite, in Nueva Segovia Department. Five women, members of the EPS, died in other clashes in Jinotega.

HUMBERTO ORTEGA ORDERS FORMAL DRAFT CALL

PA092242 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Text] On the instructions of Defense Minister Humberto Ortega Saavedra, the formal summons to register in the Patriotic Military Service has been issued, according to Sandinist People's Army [EPS] Captain Federico Cerda, chief of organization and mobilization for the EPS General Staff.

This has nothing in common with the recruiting done by other Central American governments, because in Nicaragua it is being handled in a scientific, responsible, and programmed fashion, Cerda said. It is a small step in the institutionalization of the revolution, he added. Capt Cerda reported that 20 percent of the conscripts will be called upon to serve in 1984, three-fourths of them in the months of January, February and March, and the rest in July and August, to fill the EPS military organizations. First-time recruits will spend 3 months in training before being transferred to permanent military units. In both periods, the recruits will be allowed visits from their relatives in accordance with a calendar that the EPS political directorate is establishing, Capt Cerda said.

DANIEL ORTEGA ANSWERS CRITICISM OF AMNESTY

PA071625 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0031 GMT 7 Jan 84

["Face the People" program with Commander of the Revolution Daniel Ortega Saavedra, coordinator of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, and other Nicaraguan Government officials; held at the Maestro Gabriel Institute in Managua -- live]

[Excerpts] [Mendoza Sandino] Good evening Commander of the Revolution Daniel Ortega and Companero Sergio Ramirez. My name is Alma Mendoza Sandino. I am a resident of Barrio Cuba and a member of the Luisa Amanda Espinoza Nicaraguan Women's Association Work Committee and territorial militia. My question is also a matter of concern to our people. We know that the measures included in the amnesty demonstrate the strength of our revolution, because the weapons are in our hands. However, we also know that many undesirables will return to the country using this amnesty, and we don't want those people. We would like to know what measures will be adopted as well as further explanations of this amnesty.

[Ortega] Companera, in December 1983 we adopted two amnesty measures. One benefitted the Nicaraguans of Miskito origin, and the other measure had to do with the situation of many Nicaraguans who were involved in counterrevolutionary activities, especially the residents in the border area. Counterrevolutionary activity is especially strong in the border areas, particularly on the border with Honduras. Residents have experienced constant pressure, military pressure, from the counterrevolutionaries. Due to this military pressure from the counterrevolutionaries, some peasants joined them. Peasants were also kidnapped, taken to Honduras, trained, and launched as a military force under the guidance of the Somozist guardsmen -- Somoza's officers. The same tactic has been used on the residents of northern Nicaragua's Atlantic zones.

We also must bear in mind that part of this peasant population -- a backward population -- has been submitted to what can be described as ideological terrorism. Some of these peasants really believe that the revolution is a threat to them.

The decree issued early in December states that these Nicaraguans, once they rejoin, if they owned land in the past and the land was occupied by agrarian reform, cooperatives, or any other organization, they will be given the facilities to work the land. What good would it do to offer them the opportunity to rejoin and not give them the chance to work in the country?

We also have to bear in mind that when Somoza was overthrown many guardsmen fled to Honduras. Some of them were criminals, others were accused of minor crimes. However, it is true that the Somoza dictatorship involved its guardsmen in various types of crimes, but the guardsmen are not to blame. The responsibility has to fall on those who supported the regime. The U.S. supported and created the Somoza regime. The Somozist dictatorship and the wealthy people of this country are also responsible for those crimes. These people became rich under the protection of the Somozist dictatorship. In some cases these people were anti-Somozists who said they were Somozists only to enrich themselves. However, if we carefully analyze the situation, the rank and file were mostly peasants. They were people from areas famous for dislodging peasants, unemployed people who joined the guard to get a job and to acquire some authority, as it was understood back then -- authority to repress and to do other things. However, the guardsmen were also exploited.

The amnesty is also directed at guardsmen who feel that they are not guilty of crimes in this country. This includes the guardsmen who fled to Honduras or who participated in some counterrevolutionary activities. Any person who knows that he cannot be pointed out for killing someone else can accept the amnesty.

This is a fair amnesty. It gives criminals a fair chance but there are exceptions, including the leaders -- those who are directing the counterrevolutionary activities and who are the main instruments of the United States in its aggression against Nicaragua.

Before the Reagan administration came to power, there was no military option for those who hated, did not understand, or did not want the Sandinist revolution. We experienced political situations, political differences, and political confrontation. The Somozist guardsmen were in Honduras, but they were not a great danger to the country. We had small groups of poorly armed guardsmen who stole and killed -- they were the ones who killed the teachers during the literacy campaign. However, they were a very small minority compared to the thousands of guardsmen spread out in Honduras, Central America, and even in Miami. They did not have the means to arm themselves. Then came the Reagan administration and its decision to wage war on Nicaragua. They began concentration, training, and arming the guardsmen to launch them against our people. This aggressive war declared by the United States against Nicaragua has been continuing for 3 years.

The amnesty decree is very clear about exceptions. We want justice -- justice for the Nicaraguan people, who cannot accept the criminals of the past that today continue to kill our people, and justice for those who, even if they were involved in counterrevolutionary activities, did not participate in crimes such as killing workers, monstrous crimes before and after the triumph of the revolution. We want to be fair to the people and those who wish to rejoin us -- the peasants, Miskitos, and guardsmen who did not directly participate in criminal actions. [applause]

Havana on Amnestied Returnees

PA082348 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 8 Jan 84

[Text] Agustin Lara, political secretary of Nicaragua's FSLN in the Segovia area, has reported that 337 peasants who had joined the counterrevolutionaries either voluntarily or by force have deserted, taking advantage of the decree guaranteeing their free return to Nicaragua. In an interview granted the Managua daily BARRICADA, Lara said that whole families that had been deceived have already returned to Nicaragua, and that dozens of others have been prevented from doing so by the Honduran Army.

On the different methods used by the former Somozist national guardsmen to fool the peasants to lead them into Honduras, Lara cited promises of money, flattery, distortion of the truth, and blackmail. He was optimistic about the political work that is taking place in the Segovia area, expressing his belief that faith in the revolution and its achievements, and the arming of peasants for self-defense are factors that have had a positive influence in the area.

CUBAN REVOLUTION'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATED

Mass Rally Held

PA070327 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 6 Jan 84

[Text] The enormous achievements of the Cuban people and the Cuban revolution in 25 years of constant struggle against difficulties and against U.S. imperialism's aggressions were underscored last night at the mass rally held at Managua's Gonzalez Movie Theater to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Cuban revolution.

The rally, which brought together hundreds of workers, students, fighters of the Sandinist People's Army and the Sandinist People's Militias, professionals, cabinet members, and members of the diplomatic corps, confirmed the solid ties of brotherhood uniting the Cuban and Nicaraguan peoples.

The event was presided over by Commander Daniel Ortega, coordinator of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction; Sergio Ramirez Mercado and Rafael Cordova Rivas, members of the government junta; Commander Bayardo Arce, coordinator of the National Directorate's Political Committee; Ricardo Alarcon, Cuba's vice foreign minister; Julian Lopez, Cuban ambassador to Nicaragua; Marcos Valle, Nicaraguan ambassador to Cuba; Miguel D'Escoto Brockman, Nicaraguan foreign minister; and Guerrilla Commander Dora Maria Tellez.

During the rally Ricardo Alarcon gave a historical account of the Cuban people's struggle to carry their revolution forward. He mentioned the heroes Jose Marti, Julio Antonio Mella, and Che Guevara, and the wise leadership of Commander Fidel Castro, who helped make the revolution a success. Alarcon said that in 25 years Cuba has accomplished wonderful changes, such as the elimination of illiteracy, prostitution, begging, and unemployment, and that it now guarantees happiness to children and the elderly.

In his speech, the Cuban vice foreign minister paid homage to General Augusto Cesar Sandino and Carlos Fonseca Amador, the revolution's leader, and stressed that Cuba will never falter in its revolutionary and socialist struggle and will continue to be an unassailable bastion of the world revolutionary movement. Commander Bayardo Arce said last night: Our friendship with Cuba is not negotiable. Anticipating statements by local reactionary representatives and aggressors of the northern empire who try to question the fraternal, unconditional relations of the Cuban Government and people with the Nicaraguan Government and people, Arce said that the principle of friendship between Nicaragua and Cuba is not negotiable, even if the imperialists offer all the gold on Wall Street.

Arce said at last night's commemoration: [Begin Arce recording] We want to review Cuban cooperation because there are some abroad who demand the cessation of this unconditional cooperation and friendship with Cuba. Those who demand this are precisely those who are unwilling to give us any type of cooperation or who offer cooperation in exchange for unacceptable demands. We review this because there are some who think that sovereignty consists of their determining who should and who should not be our friends. We take this solemn opportunity to assert categorically that it is we Nicaraguans who will determine, with full sovereignty, who our friends will be, and Cuba occupies a privileged place among our friends. [applause]

As the Nicaraguan revolution advances, particularly in the organization of its government, the time will come when our government will decide to reduce the level of cooperation with Cuba. This cooperation might be reduced, but the friendship with the Cuban Government, its people, its party, and its highest leader, Fidel Castro, will never, never be impaired. [applause]

Our deep, grateful, loyal friendship with Marti's homeland would never be impaired. We can be offered all the gold on Wall Street in exchange for suspending cooperation and friendship with Cuba. To this we reply that our principle of friendship with Cuba has no price, it is not negotiable. [applause] [end recording]

Havana Cites Bayardo Arce

PA070131 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 6 Jan 84

[Text] Commander Bayardo Arce, coordinator of the Political Committee of the FSLN leadership, has affirmed that the victory of the Cuban revolution meant the institutionalization in history of the possibility for the peoples of Latin America to achieve power, independence, and freedom. Bayardo Arce spoke at a ceremony organized in Managua by the Sandinist Front and the government junta on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the triumph of the Cuban revolution.

The Nicaraguan leader recounted in detail the cooperation offered by Cuba to that Central American country; cooperation he described as fraternal, friendly, and altruistic. Arce also referred to outsiders asking for an unconditional end to the friendship between Nicaragua and Cuba, and said that if offered all the gold in the world to suspend their friendly relations with Nicaragua, the Cubans would reply that such bonds of principles have no price and are not negotiable. Bayardo Arce noted that it is up to the Nicaraguans to determine, through their sovereign choice, who their friends are, and Cuba, he added, holds a privileged place among our friends.

Havana Cites Arce Castano

FL061430 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 6 Jan 84

[Text] Nicaraguan Commander Vallardo Arce Castano has stated that the triumph of the Cuban revolution showed [words indistinct] an additional note in history over the possibility of the Latin American peoples achieving power, independence, and liberty.

Arce Castano, coordinator of the political commission of the Nationalist Sandinist Directorate, joined by the entire government junta, paid tribute to the Cuban revolution on its 25th anniversary. The Cuban revolution has made its mark on the modern history of Latin America, he said. He stressed that although Cuba is geographically restricted as an island, it still shocked an entire continent and the world.

Havana Cites Alarcon

PA070109 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 6 Jan 84

[Text] Cuban Vice Foreign Minister Ricardo Alarcon has denounced in Managua the aggressive U.S. policy throughout the world and has warned that Washington's adventurous attitude is the greatest threat to peace on earth.

In a ceremony organized by the Sandinist Front and the Nicaraguan Government Junta on the 25th anniversary of the Cuban revolution, Alarcon stressed that the barbarians who invaded Grenada now threaten the peoples of Nicaragua, El Salvador and Cuba. Alarcon cited the sentiments of brotherhood between the peoples of Nicaragua and Cuba, sealed with the blood of the Cuban teachers murdered by Somozist bands. Alarcon also hailed the Salvadoran patriots, whose feats are admired throughout the world, and predicted a victorious January for all Salvadoran patriots struggling for their freedom, just as happened in Cuba 25 years ago. Ricardo Alarcon concluded by noting the Cuban revolution's achievements in the past 25 years, reaffirming that the revolution continues to raise high its undefeated invincible banners.

FRENCH DIPLOMAT PRAISES SANDINIST GOVERNMENT

PA091515 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Text] Felipe Rodriguez, French representative for the Latin American economic region, said yesterday at a news conference that intervention in Nicaragua would also affect France. He said this when commenting on the possibility of a direct attack on Nicaragua by the Reagan administration. Rodriguez said that what angers the United States is that it has not been able to occupy Nicaragua, as it has Puerto Rico, Grenada, part of Panama, and Honduras. The situation is different here; the Nicaraguans run the country, are building their future, and are forging a new history for Nicaragua, Rodriguez said. Regarding democracy in Nicaragua, he said no other country in Latin America or the world can be compared to Nicaragua in this respect. Analyzing briefly what he has seen and experienced in Nicaragua, Felipe Rodriguez said:

[Begin recording] The Sandinist government is inevitably homogeneous in representing the overall socioeconomic aspirations of the people. Therefore, its legitimacy can be measured by the government's capacity to respond to the people's socioeconomic aspirations. This is the most tangible proof we have seen of the government's legitimacy.

We have also noted that the people can participate in the political process proposed by the government itself. These two aspects are closely related to the concept of legitimacy. What have we seen in Nicaragua's structural picture in this respect? In the field of defense, for example, what other country in Latin America can give weapons to the people without being overthrown in 2 days? Could this be done in Chile or Honduras, for example, or even in other countries where elections are held? In Nicaragua, however, we have seen that by giving weapons to the people, the regime has become stronger, a characteristic of great legitimacy.

As for production and economy, we had the opportunity to participate in a UPE [State Production Unit] meeting. Not even in France can we speak of a similar experience. In other words, wherever decisions on economic matters are made, salaries, income, etc., we have seen definite and active participation by the workers. [end recording]

SELA LEADER REITERATES ECONOMIC SUPPORT

PA091750 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Text] Quito, Ecuador -- Sebastian Alegrett, permanent secretary of the Latin American Economic System, SELA, said yesterday that this organization will give Nicaragua the help necessary to confront coercive economic measures such as a blockade. In a news conference for journalists covering the first Latin American economic conference, Alegrett said that a blockade is absolutely unacceptable and incompatible with our countries' philosophy and with the principles of the Panama Treaty signed in 1975, on which SELA is based.

In the specific case of Nicaragua, the Latin American Council, SELA's principal organ, has given this country its continued support whenever it has been subjected to economic restrictions of a political nature, and it will continue doing so as necessary.

Alegrett added that the conference to be inaugurated today, with the participation of high-level experts from more than 30 countries, will provide an opportunity to reaffirm the very important concepts of regional economic security for the reduction of vulnerability and Latin American economic dependence.

HAVANA ON STONE'S MANAGUA VISIT, RETURN TO U.S.

PA061835 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 6 Jan 84

[Text] Richard Stone, the special U.S. envoy for Central America, unexpectedly interrupted his fifth tour of area countries and returned to Washington from Managua for consultations with President Ronald Reagan.

In Managua, Stone met yesterday with Daniel Ortega, coordinator of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto, and representatives of the Higher Council of Private Enterprise, the so-called Ramiro Sacasa Guerrero Democratic Coordinating Board, and the Nicaraguan Episcopal Conference.

Before leaving for Washington, Stone asserted that his talks had been detailed, specific, and quite positive, but he refused to provide any details about the topics discussed. For its part, the Nicaraguan Government termed these talks constructive.

Meanwhile, in Panama City, Foreign Minister Oyden Ortega said that it is expected that the Contadora Group will approve at its meeting this weekend a document for a final negotiation in Central America. Ortega termed definitive the meetings slated for this Saturday and Sunday in Panama City, which the foreign ministers of Mexico, Panama, Colombia, and Venezuela, and their Central American counterparts will attend.

HAVANA CITES PROTEST TO U.S., HONDURAN OFFICIALS

PA081746 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 8 Jan 84

[Text] Nicaraguan Acting Foreign Minister Victor Hugo Tinoco has sent notes to the U.S. and Honduran Governments protesting the acts of aggression, sabotage, and terrorism carried out in the last few hours against economic targets and populated areas in southwestern Nicaragua.

The note addressed to U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz specified the actions carried out by boats, airplanes, and helicopters against the Julio Buitrago Sugarmill and a housing area of the mill's workers, and against the beach resort at Masachapa.

In the message addressed to the Tegucigalpa government, Acting Foreign Minister Victor Hugo Tinoco stressed that the Port of Potosi has been attacked three times by speedboats and airplanes. He indicated that such actions could not be carried out without the complicity of the Honduran authorities. In both cases, the Nicaraguan leader emphasized that the attitude of the Honduran and U.S. Governments shows a lack of real and effective support for the Contadora Group's efforts to achieve a just and lasting peace in the area.

ARDE WAR BULLETIN REPORTS 5 JAN AMBUSH

PA081338 (Clandestine) Voice of Sandino in Spanish to Nicaragua 0000 GMT 7 Jan 84

[War Bulletin No 146 issued by the General Command of the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance's Armed Forces "in the mountains of Nicaragua" on 6 January]

[Text] The General Command of the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance's [ARDE] Armed Forces reports to the Nicaraguan people and the world's democratic peoples:

At 0900 on 5 January 1984, the combative Jose Ramon Chavez Column led by Companero Contreras carried out its first succesful military action of the year by ambushing a platoon of the occupation army at a place known as Pueblo Nuevo No 2 in Rio San Juan Department. During the clash, which lasted 15 minutes, the enemy suffered five dead and several wounded, all of whom were left behind by the demoralized soldiers of the EPS [Sandinist People's Army]. One of the bodies clearly showed foreign features, thus again confirming that we are fighting foreign forces. During their flight, the combined EPS-interventionist platoon left two Russian-made AK rifles, a bag of ammunition, and three knapsacks.

Death to Cuban internationalists and interventionists. Without totalitarianism or return to the past.

DEMICHEV, SOVIET DELEGATION DEPART AFTER VISIT

FL100206 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 10 Jan 84

[Excerpt] This afternoon the Soviet delegation headed by Petr Demichev, alternate member of the Politburo of the CPSU and culture minister of the sister nation, departed from our country. Politburo members Juan Almeida and Armando Hart went to the airport, as did Vilma Espin and Antonio Perez Herrero, alternate members of the Politburo.

CONTADORA DOCUMENT OF OBJECTIVES APPROVED

PA091934 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Text] A year after its establishment on the Panamanian island for which it was named, the Contadora Group this weekend achieved a substantial step forward in its peace efforts to get the five Central American foreign ministers to sign the principles for implementation of the commitments undertaken in the 21-point Document of Objectives.

The new document, approved on Sunday, is considered to be the draft of a peace treaty for the Central American region. The principles approved in the fifth meeting of the Contadora foreign ministers with their Central American counterparts established the creation of three commissions that will deal with regional security and political and socioeconomic aspects.

Those commissions must be established before 31 January and must prepare their studies, legal briefs, and recommendations at the latest on 30 April. Conditions will then be ready to adopt and bring into force specific peace treaties that will guarantee stability in Central America.

Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto has lamented the fact that the first point of the principles, referring to the establishment of a moratorium on the purchase of weapons starting on 29 February, was eliminated.

Panamanian President Ricardo de la Espriella issued a call to all the Central American heads of state to support the draft peace treaty signed in Panama City on Sunday.

The Contadora Group is made up of Panama, Mexico, Venezuela, and Colombia.

SALVADORAN ELECTIONS TERMED 'IMPOSSIBLE'

PA100356 Havana International Service in Spanish 2310 GMT 9 Jan 84

["Our America" commentary]

[Text] The intensification of FMLN guerrilla actions reflected in two spectacular year-end operations in El Salvador has confirmed that it will be impossible to hold presidential elections in this Central American nation. These elections have divided the government parties and have been rejected by the revolutionary organizations. The FMLN's military advances have been demonstrated by the takeover and destruction of the most modern barracks in the country, in El Paraiso, some 50 km from San Salvador; and the attack on and destruction of the Cuscatlan Bridge, which is located on the Pan American Highway, the primary route between the Salvadoran capital and eastern El Salvador.

The two actions were carried out almost simultaneously, the first taking place on 30 December and the second only a day later. This provides some idea of the rebel organizations' coordination and power. The operations in El Paraiso and Cuscatlan constitute a denial of the regime's propaganda, which claims that the Army is carrying out a vast offensive against FMLN redoubts in eastern Morazan Department, trying to prove that the guerrilla groups have withdrawn.

In fact, the FMLN mobilized hundreds of men in both instances, supported by artillery and heavy mortars, which destroyed important strategic objectives that were heavily guarded. According to observers, the military situation in El Salvador is becoming increasingly unfavorable for the regime, which is also engaged in preparing for its fraudulent elections. As a result, it will have to transfer some of its military units to the cities, in order to guarantee what Army spokesmen term the free and sovereign vote of the Salvadoran peasants and workers.

The upcoming elections represent a hope for some groups that have economic power in El Salvador and that dream of a military solution, which would favor the dictatorship and would allow them to continue to control the country's wealth. Hence, the battle for the presidency is already being waged between representatives of the basic groups with power: the Christian Democrats' Napoleon Duarte, and the leader of the ultra-reactionary Nationalist Republican Alliance, Major Roberto D'Aubuisson.

The electoral process is simply a new farce being encouraged by the United States in a desperate attempt to alter the present situation in its favor. Last year the U.S. AID organization disbursed nearly $3.5 million with which to organize the elections, initially scheduled for the last quarter in 1984. Salvadoran church and union sectors have declared their rejection of elections as a means of restoring peace in this small Central American nation, pointing out not only that it would be useless to hold elections right now, but that there is no appropriate organization to conduct them. An electoral census has not yet been established, which is rendered doubly grave by the fact that more than a third of the country's municipal registry records were destroyed in recent years. According to official information, more than 300,000 citizens have changed their places of residence.

In addition, the FMLN has declared its complete opposition to these elections. Early this month the FMLN issued a communique indicating that it will not recognize the legitimacy of the March elections or the government chosen in those elections. The FMLN and its political branch, the FDR, have stated that under the present conditions there are no guarantees that the people may freely express their will by voting. Finally, the mere existence of the death squads would make any official oppostion candidacy a suicidal proposition.

'OUR AMERICA' PRAISES NICARAGUAN STEADFASTNESS

PA091431 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 9 Jan 84

["Our America" commentary]

[Text] Nicaragua has recently dealt very serious blows to the counterrevolutionary force of thousands who last December entered Nicaraguan territory through the Departments of Nueva Segovia and Jinotega, near the Honduran border. The heaviest armed clashes began on 21 Decmeber and intensified on 31 December, leaving 65 counterrevolutionaries dead.

The most important clashes took place on El Pelon Hill, in the area of San Jeronimo, (Cachanga) village, Murra, Ciudad Antigua, San Diego, and La Paz. The counterrevolutionaries attacked Murra twice, on 31 December and again on 1 January. Two counterrevolutionaries were killed and the rest were forced to flee by the tenacious and heroic resistance of the local people.

Military equipment and uniforms left behind by the fleeing former Somozist guards were found 6 km from Murra. The counterrevolutionaries also failed in their attempt to take over Ciudad Antigua, with a population of 2,000. The local people firmly resisted the mercenary attack until Sandinist People's Army [EPS] reinforcements arrived, forcing the former Somozist guardsmen to flee. The invading forces have seen both their plans to establish counterrevolutionary bases in the Nicaraguan departments bordering Honduras and their attempts to enter deep into Nicaragua repeatedly foiled. It has been learned that some 600 counterrevolutionaries are mobilizing in the northern region of Nueva Segovia, in an area bounded by Jalapa, Ciudad Sandino, Murra, Quilali, and the northern border with Honduras.

The heaviest clashes between the former Somozist guardsmen and the EPS members -- the latter in close collaboration with the militias and the rest of the local people -- have taken place in the mountains of Nueva Segovia.

The Nicaraguan forces have not only successfully fought the counterrevolutionaries infiltrated and supplied from Honduras, they have also created a broad and effective defensive system in their territory. Airborne troops were dropped in the zone of San Carlos, near the Honduran border, to cut off the Somozist invaders' withdrawal, while EPS units, militia units, and border guard troops repelled the attackers with artillery fire.

In Ocotal, the departmental capital, in Ciudad Sandino, and in the towns in the valleys beyond the hills of Nueva Segovia, a circular defense plan is being effectively carried out to repel the attacks and expel the counterrevolutionaries.

Two militia battalions protect about 50 square km of Ocotal, the occupation of which was a central goal of the invaders. The Nicaraguan civilian defense has been reinforced with the creation of staffs in all towns, and shelters have been built to protect the people in the event of an artillery attack. In addition, clean-out brigades, fire fighters, and other contingents have been organized to defend major production centers. The efficacy of all these defensive measures is guaranteed, because in addition to this organization there exists the Nicaraguan determination to defeat the counterrevolution.

FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL INTERVIEWED IN QUITO

PA091939 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 8 Jan 84

[Interview granted by Jose Raul Viera, Cuban first deputy foreign minister, to Pedro Martinez Pirez, in Quito; date not given -- recorded]

[Text] [Martinez] Greetings, listeners. This is Pedro Martinez Pirez, Radio Havana special correspondent, speaking to you directly from Quito. We have talked to Jose Raul Viera Linares, Cuban first vice foreign minister, who is heading the Cuban delegation that since last Thursday has been participating in preparations for the Latin American Economic Conference to be held here next week.

Viera, first of all we would like your opinion on the importance of this meeting of 33 Latin American countries at Ecuadorean President Hurtado's initiative, as well as the meaning of this meeting for the future of Latim America.

[Viera] This meeting has been called in response to the Latim American countries' needs, at a moment when the economic crisis appearing in developed capitalist countries is making itself felt in most Latim American countries, particularly those that have important economic ties with capitalist countries. This economic crisis has affected many Latin American countries in such areas as unemployment, deeper misery for the population, and social tensions. In addition, the crisis has stopped and in some cases reversed the little economic development that has been achieved during the past few years.

This is the first need prompting the conference. In addition, a willingness for regional cooperation has been developed, for reaffirmation of national sovereignty, and for speaking with our own voices, which is also expressed through this conference. I believe the conference must answer our needs, solve economic problems, and increase cooperation among Latin American countries with regard to their economic relations, thus leading to regional economic integration. The conference should also coordinate the region's stances regarding countries which have developed a market economy.

[Martinez] Viera, this conference consists of three stages; the board of directors meeting, then the meeting of experts, and finally a meeting of the heads of state or their delegates. The Cuban delegation will be headed by Vice President Carlos Rafael Rodriguez. What does it mean for Cuba to be present in these three stages, at this juncture, following 1983's disastrous results for the Latin American economy?

[Viera] This meeting is very important for Cuba. I don't think, looking back on my first answer, that Cuba suffers from the domestic economic crisis or social tensions afflicting other countries now. Most of our relations are with socialist countries. Only 20 percent of our foreign trade is with capitalist countries. Although we have suffered the impact of the capitalist countries' economic crisis, the effects have been somewhat reduced. The effects of the crisis have been averted in our country, not at the expense of education, health, or food, but through the use of all national resources which contribute to development. Workers are not called on to share this burden.

What is our interest in this meeting? Since its inception, the Cuban revolution has had a Latin American inclination. We are, first of all, a Latin American country. Cuba and Mexico are the northernmost Latin American countries, nearest the United States. Therefore, all original, independent expressions of this region, such as this conference, which is exclusively Latin American, where all Latin American and Caribbean countries participate, are very important for us politically, because they reaffirm the region's independence, its willingness to live peacefully, and its desire to reach independent economic and social development.

This meeting has economic importance, too, because our own situation, our independence of action, allows us to have closer economic relations with all willing Latin American countries.

[Martinez] What is your opinion of the recent declaration by the Ecuadorean president on upgrading Cuban-Ecuadorean relations to the ambassadorial level?

[Viera] Well, in reality, the level has not been upgraded. We have returned to the level we had some months ago when relations were temporarily interrupted, and we had a charge d'affaires for some time. President Hurtado's declaration, of course, was welcomed by the Cuban Government. I think that resuming normal relations between the two countries is in accordance with the Ecuadorean people's interests, as well as the Cuban people's, and with the Latin American region's in general. Now that we are speaking of cooperation, integration, and friendship, nothing would be more appropriate than resuming normal relations with Ecuador.

FRIENDSHIP CEREMONY HELD AT MILITARY CENTER

FL100056 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Text] The firm determination to preserve peace was made evident in a friendship ceremony at the Military Education Center of the Territorial Troops Militia in Havana. It was attended by Valentina Tereskova, member of the Central Committee of the CPSU and the Supreme Soviet of the Soviet Union. Division General Senen Casas, first vice minister of the FAR, and Vilma Espin, president of the Federation of Cuban Women [FMC], both of whom are alternate members of the Politburo of the Communist Party of Cuba, were also present.

Speaking at the ceremony, Vilma Salinas, member of the provincial committee and secretary of the FMC in Havana, said that at the request of Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, thousands of FMC members were preparing to defend the fatherland if it is attacked. She pointed out that in the land of Marti socialism will continue to be victorious.

BULGARIAN OFFICIALS ARRIVE FOR WORKING VISIT

AU091957 Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 1830 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Text] Comrades Ognyan Doynov and Stanish Bonev arrived in Havana on a working visit at the invitation of the Cuban Communist Party Central Committee. At the airport the Bulgarian guests were cordially welcomed by Cuban party and state leaders. Questions pertaining to economic cooperation between the two countries will be discussed in the forthcoming talks.

CASTRO GREETS PRK LEADERS ON NATIONAL DAY

BK091039 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 0430 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Text] On the occasion of the 5th anniversary of the 7 January National Day, Comrade Fidel Castro, first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee and chairman of the State Council and of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Cuba, sent a message of warm greetings and congratulations to Comrade Heng Samrin, general secretary of the KRPR Central Committee and chairman of the Council of State, and to Comrade Chan Si, chairman of the Council of Ministers.

The message read: Since the victory of the revolution, we have noted with satisfaction the progress achieved by the PRK, and we firmly believe that you will score more and greater successes in building the material economic foundation and in defending and safeguarding the gains of the fatherland, as well as in building socialism and strengthening the fraternal relationships with the Vietnamese and Lao peoples, with the effective assistance of the other socialist countries in consolidating socialism in Asia.

The message stressed: We would like to once again affirm our profound friendship, solidarity, and resolute support to you as well as our trust in the deepening and developing relations between our two parties, governments, and peoples.

ANTIGUA

OECS ECONOMIC AFFAIRS MINISTERS TO MEET 11 JAN

FL062334 Bridgetown CANA in English 1454 GMT 6 Jan 84

[Text] St John's, Antigua, Jan 6 (CANA) -- Economic affairs ministers of the seven-nation Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) will discuss the setting up of an export promotion agency when they meet here next Wednesday. The Economic Affairs Secretariat of the OECS said in a statement that the ministers will also review allocation of industries in the wider Caribbean Community (Caricom); the state of negotiations leading to a successor to Lome 2, the trade and aid pact between developing African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) states and the European Community; and the coordination of agricultural services within the OECS.

The meeting to be chaired by Dominica's Charles Savarin will be preceded by two days of preliminary discussions by officials.

BARBADOS

CANADIAN MINISTER PEPIN ARRIVES FOR VISIT

FL091533 Bridgetown CANA in English 2300 GMT 8 Jan 84

[By Trevor Yearwood]

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, Jan 8 (CANA) -- Canada's Minister for External Relations, Jean-Luc Pepin, arrived here today, saying Ottawa would not allow its differences with Caribbean governments over last October's U.S.-led invasion of Grenada to spoil relations with states in the region.

"...We are not rehashing the past," Pepin told reporters at the Grantley Adams International Airport. "We are concerned with the present and the future."

"This is the position we took. A number of your governments disagreed with us in a friendly fashion, but we are not rehashing the past."

Members of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), along with Barbados and Jamaica, supported the invasion of Grenada, which toppled a military junta that had violently overthrown the leftist People's Revolutionary Government (PRG) of Maurice Bishop, who was also killed. But Canada opposed the intervention, which took place against the background of Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau's campaign for a reduction in international tensions.

The Grenada situation is expected to come up for discussions when Pepin meets Prime Minister Tom Adams and other senior government officials tomorrow.

The Canadian minister flew to Barbados this afternoon for a four-day visit after talks with government officials in St Lucia, and similar discussions are carded for Trinidad and Tobago during a three-day visit starting Wednesday.

One of the highlights of the Barbados visit is tomorrow's signing of a 9.5 million dollar (one BDS dollar; 50 cents U.S.) Canadian line of credit. Barbados will use the package, extended by the state-run Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), for the purchase of oil field exploration and drilling equipment.

The possibility of more developmental aid from Canada is down for discussion tomorrow when Pepin meets government officials including Trade Minister Bernard St John, Foreign Minister Louis Tull, and Energy Minister Clyde Griffith. "We are going to talk about everything you can think of", said Pepin, in terms of Canada-Barbados relations, trade, aid, and cooperation.

Grenada will also be a major talking point, said Pepin. "I am going to talk about Grenada, of course, to the three countries where I will be flying," he said, adding that a preliminary report would be done here, in Trinidad and Tobago, and St Lucia which would define the role Canada could play in the economic reconstruction of Grenada. Canada, said Pepin, had resumed aid to Grenada and had recognised the non-political government set up last November to take the island into elections this year. "But we haven't decided yet very precisely what we will do in terms of security assistance and in terms of economic aid to Grenada," he conceded. "This is being discussed now and part of the trip I am making now is exploratory."

During last November's Commonwealth's Heads of Government Conference in New Delhi, Caribbean leaders told Trudeau why they had called for an invasion of Grenada and expressed the hope that Canada would continue its multimillion dollar aid programme to the region so as to reduce the area's dependence on United States assistance.

The Canadian minister will hold discussions with head of the Barbados Army, Rudyard Lewis, Police Commissioner Orville Durant, and President of the Barbados-based Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) William Demas. He will also visit the largely Canadian-owned Barbados Telephone Company and a fisheries complex which Canada helped finance.

Meets With Adams

FL092222 Bridgetown CANA in English 1859 GMT 9 Jan 84

[By Trevor Yearwood]

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, Jan 9 (CANA) -- Canada's minister for external relations, Jean-Luc Pepin, today had talks with Barbados' prime minister, Tom Adams, which he said were dominated by the situation in Grenada, invaded by U.S. troops last October. Pepin was closeted at government headquarters for more than 75 minutes with Adams, Energy Minister Clyde Griffith, and other senior government officials, reviewing Ottawa's relations with this and other English-speaking Caribbean countries.

"What I have done," Pepin told reporters after the meeting, "is simply review with the prime minister and with others a diversity of subjects. With the prime minister, if you want to know, the conversation was mostly about the situation in Grenada. I just wanted to have his perception of the situation, of what needs to be done now." Barbados supported the invasion of Grenada, aimed at toppling a military junta that had taken over from the strife-torn leftist People's Revolutionary Government (PRG), but Canada opposed it.

Pepin arrived here yesterday from St Lucia for a four-day official visit he said would be instrumental in determining what role Canada plays in Grenada, where a non-political council was installed last November to govern until general elections can be held. He leaves here Wednesday for Trinidad and Tobago, which also opposed the invasion, for wide-raning talks Canadian diplomats said will touch on the Grenada situation.

Canadian developmental assistance to Barbados also figured prominently in today's talks, Pepin admitted. The Canadian minister today signed a 9.6 million dollar (one Bds dollar; 50 cents U.S.) loan agreement with Barbados to finance the provision of oil field exploration and drilling equipment to the state-run Barbados National Oil Corporation (BNOC).

GOVERNOR GENERAL SIR DEIGHTON WARD DIES

FL092246 Bridgetown CANA in English 1957 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, Jan 9 (CANA) -- Barbados' governor general, Sir Deighton Ward, died today, it was announced. He was 74.

GRENADIAN POLICE RECRUITS ARRIVE FOR TRAINING

FL091511 Bridgetown CANA in English 2142 GMT 8 Jan 84

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, Jan 8 (CANA) -- Fifty Grenadian police recruits arrived today for a five-month training stint at the Regional Police Training Centre in southern Barbados, a spokesman said. The group is part of an estimated 625-strong force that Grenada Commissioner of Police Mervyn Holder says he is assembling to take charge of the island's security when the Caribbean/American peacekeeping force leaves. The peacekeeping force has been in Grenada since October 25 when U.S.-led troops invaded the island following a violent Army coup.

Holder, a Barbadian, said last month a further 20 special police officers will go to Barbados in the next few months to attend a four-week refresher course.

GRENADA

RAMPHAL SAYS ELECTIONS, SECURITY DISCUSSED

FL091339 Bridgetown CANA in English 2055 GMT 7 Jan 84

[By George Worme]

[Text] St George's, Grenada, Jan 7 (CANA) -- Commonwealth Secretary-General Shridath Ramphal said today planned elections in Grenada this year and the island's security following the U.S.-led invasion in October were the main points raised in three-days of talks with the interim government. Ramphal told reporters before leaving for St Vincent that Commonwealth assistance in these areas dominated his discussions with the nine-man administration, but no decisions had been taken.

The interim government has said it plans to put machinery in place for elections to be held between May and year-end. The island's security is presently in the hands of a Caribbean and American peacekeeping force.

The former Guyana foreign minister said he suggested a number of areas where the London-based Commonwealth Secretariat could help in Grenada's reconstruction drive. He cited the desirability of a very urgent assessment of the island's needs in the social sector and for a long-term indepth study of its requirements for economic rehabilitation.

"What I had in mind there was a multilateral multidisciplinary team of people in agriculture, transport, and industry in the social sectors, and economic planners who can look ahead and provide the options that can lie before a new government," he said. The Commonwealth Secretary-General stated that talks on the issue are on-going and that "those discussions have been exploratory but they have been substantive."

Ramphal said he had been "greatly encouraged" in his dialogue with Grenada and the other Commonwealth Caribbean countries he had visited, although there is still much to be done.

Ramphal has described his mission as a healing one following the division caused within the region by the military intervention. There has also been some criticisim of Ramphal, who has deplored the invasion.

The former Guyana foreign minister will journey from St Vincent to Guyana and Jamaica before returning to London early next week.

Ramphal declared that he was not in Grenada to determine whether the Commonwealth was wrong or overreacted to the October 25 invasion of the island. He said he visited the island to look ahead and was impressed with the fact that Grenadians, "who have gone through a very long night, believe that the dawn will be real."

Ramphal said he had discerned that Grenadians wished to be secure and to ensure that the security arrangements from whatever regardless of the sources they come from that they are adequate. [sentence as received] "I felt a great uneasiness that the police force, which was really decimated in the past, needs to be put together because that is the essence of normality."

Ramphal said he had informed the new Grenada Government that the Commonwealth Secretariat would continue its on-going programme of technical assistance to the island.

Ramphal indicated that future assistance from the Commonwealth to Grenada depended much on the interim government processing its requests and approaching the Commonwealth. "It is in their court," he said. "They know that all they need to do is to say to us, within the limits of our resources, these are the kinds of skills we need and need urgently, and they would get them. They have to decide from which agencies they are going to seek different people, because we are not the only ones who can help but they know that we can help and help directly," he added.

Leaves for St Vincent

FLO71946 Bridgetown CANA in English 1532 GMT 7 Jan 84

[Text] St George's, Grenada, Jan 7 (CANA) -- London-based Commonwealth Secretary General Shridath Ramphal was leaving Grenada today for St Vincent and the Grenadines to continue a regional Commonwealth tour for high-level talks centred on rehabilitation of Grenada and improved Caribbean Community (Caricom) in the face of the island's October coup and subsequent military invasion. [sentence as received]

Ramphal is expected to hold talks with the Vincentian Prime Minister Milton Cato later in the day before flying to Guyana tonight. Ramphal, who has already visited the Bahamas, Trinidad and Tobago, Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, St Lucia, and Barbados, would meet Guyanese President Forbes Burnham. "The secretary general would leave Guyana on Monday for Jamaica to meet with Prime Minister Edward Seaga and then leave the area on Tuesday for London," the spokesman said.

During his visit to Grenada, the former Guyana foreign minister said his trip to the region was aimed at following up recent discussions with regional leaders at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Summit in New Delhi last year.

He said he was happy to be back in the Caribbean attempting "to do whatever may be within my capacity to do to help to ensure that 1984 is going to be a good year for the whole region." This was Ramphal's first visit to Grenada since the October invasion by U.S. forces which ousted a left-wing military junta following a bloody military coup.

A communique issued at the end of the secretary general's talks with the interim government here said discussions dealt with the possibility of Commonwealth assistance at the request of Grenada, particularly in the areas of elections and security. "The discussions covered the principal elements of the framework of Commonwealth assistance esta lished by the New Delhi communique, and the several considerations pertaining to the maintenance of law and order in Grenada and the holding of free and fair elections, which are the concern of the interim administration." The communique said that the discussions between the Commonwealth secretary general and the interim administration established that there was value in continuing the process of consultation with an awareness on all sides of the importance of early decisions. "The interim administration will give close consideration in the weeks ahead to its programme of action in the light of the discussions with the Commonwealth secretary general and other appropriate consultations," it added.

GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES DIPLOMATIC CORPS CHANGES

FL100148 Bridgetown CANA in English 2042 GMT 9 Jan 84

[By George Worme]

[Text] St George's, Grenada, Jan 9 (CANA) -- Grenada's interim government announced sweeping changes today in its foreign diplomatic service, closing embassies in Canada, the Soviet Union, and Libya, and sacking three heads of missions.

An official statement said the diplomats to lose their jobs are Dessima Williams, ambassador to the Organisation of American States (OAS), Caldwell Taylor, permanent representative to the United Nations, and High Commissioner to Britain Fennis Augustine. The statement said the missions in Washington and New York, which were closed in the aftermath of October's U.S.-led invasion, have been reopened and are headed by Denis Noel, counsellor (Washington), and Gloria Payne-Banfied, minister/counsellor (New York). It said Grenada's interests in London are being looked after by the high commission of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), pending the appointement of a new high commissioner.

The nine-member interim government which was appointed after the invasion said the country's high commission in Ottawa, Canada, will be closed and confirmed earlier indications that missions in Soviet Union and Libya would be shut down. The OECS is to be approached to take over Grenada's interest in Canada. The government, however, intends to open a consulate in Toronto, where large numbers of Grenadian nationals reside, the release said. The statement said Osbert Benjamin, the high commissioner to Ottawa and former education officer here, is returning to the island to "resume duties" in the public service.

Also recalled home is Mario Bullen, ambassador to the European Community. He is to be posted to the Ministry of Finance, Planning, and Trade to help Grenada negotiate international economic agreements.

The government also said in the release that it was hopeful of recruiting a "suitable person" to be based in Washington to serve as Grenada's ambassador to the United States. Under the left-leaning Grenada government of slain Prime Minister Maurice Bishop, the United States frustrated all attempts by Bishop to appoint an ambassador to Washington. The United States did not appoint an envoy to Grenada under Bishop because Washington frowned on his close ties with Cuba.

The confirmation of the closure of embassies in Moscow and Tripoli followed a decision by Governor-General Sir Paul Scoon to break relations with the two capitals days after the invasion.

On the future of the Grenada Embassy in Cuba, the release said that no firm decision had been taken on it, but that the government had instructed the First Secretary in Havana Don McPhail to return home for consultations.

The statement also announced the reopening of its embassy in Caracas.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ASKS U.S. TO DRAFT AID PLAN

FL091235 Bridgetown CANA in English 2352 GMT 7 Jan 84

[Text] St George's, Grenada, Jan 7 (CANA) -- The Grenada Chamber of Industry and Commerce wants the United States to draw up "a meaningful programme" of assistance to the island with the help of the local authorities and resist from giving handouts to Grenadians, President Richard Menezes said today.

Menezes said the chamber had learnt that the American mission here was planning to give out large quantities of shoes, sports equipment, notebooks, and other items to Grenadians. The chamber president said the large distribution of "freeness" was tantamount to "the aiding and abetting of a mentality...where people expect that manna is going to fall from heaven." "What we are saying is let us list our priorities and have a meaningful programme of addressing those problems. Maybe shoes is not the answer," Menezes told CANA in an interview.

He said the large scale distribuion of gifts also tends to disrupt the operations of the business community and contributes to "moral decay" in the community by fostering "a something for nothing attitude" in people. The chamber's objection to American handouts was not on the basis of selfishness, he said.

Menezes said he has had discussions with the United States officials here on the issue and had asked that there be better coordination of aid efforts. The Americans responded positively and the chamber hopes the problem will not recur, Menezes said.

Referring to toys distributed by the Americans to Grenadian children for Christmas, Menezes said there were undesirable features to the operation. "The efficiency with which it could have been handled was not there, and the kids that were targetted as being the beneficiaries of these toys did not, in many cases, receive those benefits," he said. The chamber president charged that some people who should not have received these toys did get them, some children got more than one, and whole packages disappeared in transit. If the American authorities are unfamiliar with local conditions, then on occasions like these, they should ask the assistance of a responsible local organisation like one of the service clubs, he said.

Since last October's U.S. -led invasion, the United States has been aiding the economic reconstruction of Grenada. Washington has approved a 15-million-Dollar (U.S.) aid programme for the island. The package is being administered by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). The money will be used for road improvement, economic development, as well as to finance projects in education and health, among other things.

MEDICAL SCHOOL RESUMES CLASSES 10 JANUARY

FL091157 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Text] In Grenada, the St George's University School of Medicine resumes classes tomorrow with nearly 248 U.S. students expected to be enrolled.

U.S. troops evacuated nearly 500 American medical students from the medical school during the military intervention in Grenada last October. School officials say about 175 of the evacuated students are among the 250 [figure as heard] who will be studying at the school's two campuses in Grenada. In addition, 239 who did not wish to return to Grenada will be attending the school's branch compus in Barbados, and another 175 will study at a compus in Brooklyn, New York.

JAMAICA

GOVERNMENT IMPORT RESTRICTIONS TO BE REDUCED

FL092212 Bridgetown CANA in English 1954 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Jan 9 (CANA) -- Only 170 million U.S. dollars of general imports, less than a third of the 1983 value, will require licences or foreign exchange quotas this year under government's plan to speed up the deregulation of the Jamaican ecomony, Prime Minister Edward Seaga has announced.

Seaga told private sector leaders at the weekend that raw materials and capital goods, except for motor vehicles, will not require licensing or quotas in the future, thought most consumer goods would still be under regulation. Textbooks and drugs will be exempt.

As a result of the deregulation, imports other than oil, those for the kev bauxite sector, and goods brought in by the states purchasing arm, the Jamaica Commodity Trading Company, would now value 170 million U.S. dollars. Last year, 570 million dollars were imported under licence.

Of the 170 million dollars, all but 20 million U.S. dollars represented items on the restricted list which allowed protection for local manufacturers from imports. The restricted list is itself being deregulated, with about 60 items a year being removed.

The reduction of licences and quotas will further lessen the need for the sate to allocate Jamaica's scarce foreign exchange, and government believes it will reduce bureaucracy and help to "eliminate impediments to production within the manufacturing and trading sectors."

Seaga had announced plans to speed up the deregulation process here when he, in November, devalued the Jamaican dollar by 43 per cent.

"The removal of raw materials and capital goods was done on the basis of expectation that the demand for raw materials and capital goods would move as fast as the economy itself, and therefore has a self-regulatory mechanism which would not need bureaucratic regulation," a government statement said. In other words, it said, "the extent of demand in the market place will be used as the mechanism which will regulate the flow of raw materials and capital goods."

ST LUCIA

COMPTON ON TRADE MISSION TO ASIAN COUNTRIES

FL072000 Bridgetown CANA in English 1505 GMT 7 Jan 84

[Text] Castries, St Lucia, Jan 7 (CANA) -- St Lucia's Prime Minister John Compton is heading for Southeast Asia this weekend at the head of a high-powered mission of government and private sector officials. The team is scheduled to visit South Korea (Jan 9-12), Taiwan (Jan 12-15), and Hong Kong (Jan 15-18), with the specific task of trying to woo investors to St Lucia.

Compton's ruling United Workers Party (UWP) has been cultivating ties with both South Korea and Taiwan since its return to power in May 1982 general elections. Last April a mission led by Trade, Industry, and Tourism Minister George Mallet visited Taiwan at the invitation of that country's government. Private sector officials were also part of that mission. When Mallet returned home he reported that the trip had laid the foundation for goodwill and understanding between the peoples of Taiwan and St Lucia and had paved the way for "increased friendly relations and economic cooperation."

The Compton mission will include heads of the island's Chamber of Commerce, Manufacturers Association, National Development Corporation, Small Business Association, and National Workers Union, the largest labour organisation on the island. The nine-member party will be in South Korea from Monday to Thursday next week. Talks will be held with government leaders in Seoul on increased economic aid to St Lucia and other forms of cooperation between the two countries. The delegation will also visit a number of industrial complexes, a government statement here said.

Arrives in South Korea

FL091545 Bridgetown CANA in English 1343 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Text] Seoul, Jan 9 (CANA-REUTER) -- St Lucia's Prime Minister John Compton arrived here today for a four-day visit to discuss with South Korean Premier Chin Iee-Chong ways of boosting cooperation between their countries. He is also due to meet President Chun Doo Hwan, tour factories, and visit the Panmunjom Truce Village on the border with North Korea, South Korean officials said.

BOUTERSE ANNOUNCES RESIGNATION OF GOVERNMENT

FL091441 Bridgetown CANA in English 1410 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Text] Paramaribo, Suriname, Jan 9 (CANA) -- Suriname's left-wing government has resigned, military strongman Deysi Bouterse said in a television broadcast last night. The resignation follows weeks of industrial unrest sparked off by workers in the bauxite industry who protested heavy taxation of their annual bonuses.

The SURINAME NEWS AGENCY in a report of Bouterse's speech said he announced the withdrawal of tax measures and price hikes. A decree to this effect will be published today.

A new cabinet will be formed in close consultation with industry, trade unions, and the February 25 Movement, a political grouping he formed in November, the Army commander said.

Bouterse said the resignation was made to find "a fundamental solution for the problems we are facing as a people," and had been taken after intensive consultations with the government, the trade union movement, and organisations of trade and industry. He said two things were crucial: the legitimate interests of the workers and the people as a whole, and the necessity for the government to take adequate measures to safeguard the country's future development.

Referring to the industrial unrest, Bouterse said that it had resulted from mistakes made by the government which had failed to consult the masses while preparing its policy. He said that consultations with trade unions, trade and industry, and the February 25 Movement will continue, with the aim of formulating a government policy that corresponds with the programme of the movement.

On the basis of the results of the consultations, a new government will be formed that will execute this programme in close cooperation with the masses of the people. Bouterse said that the step was meant "as a correction of the national policy" and will have no influence on the country's nonaligned foreign policy.

New Government To Be Announced

FL091735 Bridgetown CANA in English 1705 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Text] Paramaribo, Suriname, Jan 9 (CANA) -- Suriname's military strongman Deysi Bouterse is expected to announce a new government soon after securing the resignation of his prime minister and cancelling tax and price hikes which triggered widespread industrial unrest, the state-run SURINAME NEWS AGENCY said today.

It said Lieutenant-Colonel Deysi Bouterse, who took power in a coup four years ago, announced the resignation of the government of Prime Minister Errol Alibux in a television broadcast last night. It quoted Bouterse as saying that the resignation of the cabinet, the fourth since the 1980 coup, was sought "as a correction of national policy" and that a decree cancelling recent price hikes and tax measures would be published today.

Alibux, 34, was appointed last March. The agency quoted Bouterse as saying he made policy mistakes for failing to consult with the people. His resignation followed intensive talks with trade unions and was aimed at "finding a fundamental solution to the problems we are facing as a people," he said. It came after weeks of industrial unrest by workers in the vital bauxite industry protesting against heavy taxation of their annual bonuses. Paramaribo, the capital, was without electricity and water at the weekend after utility workers joined in the strike.

The Alibux government had announced a tax package including an increase in income tax from January 1 which was last week postponed for three weeks.

A new government will be formed in close consultation with trade unions, industry, and the February 25 Movement, a political grouping Bouterse formed last year.

The Army seized power in Suriname five years after it won independence from the Netherlands and started socialist policies in the small country, wedged between Guyana and French Guiana on the norhtern coast of South America. Bouterse has denounced several attempts to oust him since then. He said last November he foiled a Dutch-and French-backed coup plot by Suriname politicians in the Netherlands. Exiled politicians, France, and the Netherlands denied the charges.

Alibux, a Dutch-trained sociologist, had replaced the government of Henri Neyhorst, who resigned following disturbances in December 1982. The Netherlands and the United States then suspended aid to Suriname after 15 prominent citizens accused of plotting against Bouterse were shot in an alleged attempt to escape.

Miners' Strike Continues

LD091941 Hilversum International Service in English 1830 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Text] Strikes among the 4,000 or so bauxite workers in the former Dutch colony of Suriname are continuing in spite of tax concessions by Army commander Deysi Bouterse and the dismissal on Sunday of Prime Minister Alibux's government. According to Army commander Deysi Bouterse the country is now in a crisis and the cabinet had not sufficiently consulted the people. Commander Bouterse said a new Suriname Government should be more accommodating in the face of the wishes of the people and the trade unions.

Havana Cites Bouterse

PA091920 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Text] Lieutenant Colonel Deysi Bouterse, president of Suriname's National Military Council, has announced the resignation of the government headed by Prime Minister Errol Alibux. Bouterse said that the resignation is due to the unpopularity of that government's economic measures, which led to an accelerated increase in the cost of living.

In a radio and television speech, the Surinamese leader announced the repeal by decree of the taxes that in recent weeks provoked many strikes in the country. He also announced that the composition of the new cabinet will be decided after consultations with unions, social organizations, and employers.

ECUADOR

NEGATIVE GROWTH RATE, DROP IN RESERVES RECORDED

PA062142 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1130 GMT 6 Jan 84

[Text] The year 1983 ended without a single sign of economic recovery and a growth rate of -3.2 percent, which is substantially lower than the 7.7 percent estimated as the 1983 growth rate in the much-touted development plan of the current democratic government.

In fact, although the development plan signed at a mass event in San Francisco Square indicated that the country's economy would experience a slump [decrecimiento] of 6.6, 6.3, 7.2, and 7.7 percent during the years 1980, 1981, 1982, and 1983, respectively, the actual results were worse and definitively lower.

According to official statistics, the real growth rates during the mentioned years were as follows: 4.8, 4.3, 1.5, and -3.2 percent, in that order, which is in sharp contrast with the goals set by the current government.

The foreign exchange reserve also dropped significantly from 1980 through 1983. According to official statistics, the foreign exchange reserve totalled $856 million in 1980, $562 million in 1981, $210 million in 1982, and $160 million in 1983, which means that the foreign exchange reserve has decreased 436 percent in 4 years.

VENEZUELA

LUSINCHI MISSION TO VISIT OPEC STATES

PA040404 Paris AFP in Spanish 2211 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Text] Caracas, 3 Jan (AFP) -- A fact-finding mission of the new Venezuelan Government will travel to the Middle East and North Africa on Thursday. It will be led by Arturo Hernandez Grisanti, who will probably be the new energy minister.

The social democratic party [named Democratic Action] -- to which Hernandez and President-elect Jaime Lusinchi belong, won the December elections and will replace Luis Herrera Campins' Christian Democratic [as received] government in a month.

Hernandez will visit Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Kuwait, Libya, and Algeria. He will make a 1-day visit to each capital.

The mission will evaluate the international petroleum market and the OPEC situation with each energy minister of the countries it will visit.

Hernandez said that President Lusinchi will probably later send another mission to Nigeria, whose coup d'etat this week has led to concern about OPEC unity. Venezuela, Hernandez said, wants to reaffirm its ties with that country, which, in addition to being an OPEC member, maintains a bilateral agreement on the exchange of crude with this South American producer.